THIS YEAR'S SPRING FASHION TRENDS, PG 32

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Celebrity pg 42

Tiger rehab photos leaked

Try some of this on your wings

CHILI Officials in Germany say eight teenagers were hospitalized after a test of courage in which they drank chili sauce more than 200 times hotter than normal.

The Red Cross in the city of Augsburg said 10 boys, aged 13 and 14, drank the sauce yesterday morning, apparently in school. The boys complained of feeling sick and eight were taken to hospital.

The Red Cross said that on the Scoville scale, which measures the hotness of sauce, the sauce measured 535,000 — compared to 2,500 for normal Tabasco sauce.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News on the Move

What's this barcode for?
Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3

Vancouver Games

Countdown to 2010

Follow Metro as we bring you daily coverage leading up to the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

• Today — Unlike Cypress Mountain on Vancouver's North Shore, Whistler's Olympic venues are ready, page 24

Sports

Link to exclusive Raptors game report and highlights. See the top of page 22.

On the web

Visit metronews.ca for news updates

Haiti **A moment of relief**

CHRIS HONDROS/GETTY IMAGES

A Haitian boy pours water on himself yesterday at a broken water line in Port-au-Prince. Aid has started trickling out to Haitians devastated by last week's earthquake that ravaged the country, though many fear not enough will reach desperate citizens in time to prevent humanitarian catastrophe. More coverage, pages 8, 14.

Deadly combo

Pedestrians, drivers both to blame for deaths: Cops

A rash of pedestrian fatalities in the GTA had experts sounding the alarm yesterday about the deadly combination of reckless drivers and aloof pedestrians competing for space on crowded city streets.

"They're blinded with their hoods. They've got their earphones on. They've blocked out any awareness," Toronto police Const. Hugh Smith said about pedestrians, who are often tuned into their MP3 players instead of traffic signals.

But drivers weren't off the hook either.

"We've made it our secondary comfort zone," said Smith, as he described the laid-back behaviour of many motorists who play loud music, eat in their cars and think they can multi-task while driving.

Police said accidents can be caused by people scurrying onto the street against a light, and aggressive drivers speeding, unaware of their surroundings.

Smith said the mild winter has given motorists a false sense of security as they whip around on the roads. "We have aggressive drivers, but we also have aggressive pedestrians. We have pedestrians who will not wait for a fresh light," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 7

10th fatality in eight days

• Yesterday morning, another person died after being struck by a vehicle. It was the 10th pedestrian fatality in eight days in the Greater Toronto Area. The latest death happened in the city's northwest end. A woman was trying to cut across a road when she was hit by a minivan.

Please take a seat ... or maybe not

HEALTH Here's a new warning from health experts: Sitting is deadly.

Scientists are increasingly warning that sitting for prolonged periods — even if you also exercise regularly — could be bad for your health. And it doesn't matter where the sitting takes place — at the office, at school, in the car or before a computer or TV — just the overall number of hours it occurs.

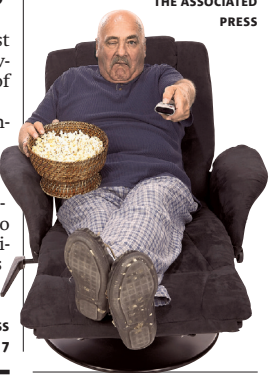
4

"After four hours of sitting, the body starts to send harmful signals," said Elin Ekblom-Bak of the Swedish School of Sport and Health Sciences. She explained that genes regulating the amount of glucose and fat in the body start to shut down.

Research is preliminary, but several studies suggest people who spend most of their days sitting are more likely to be fat, have a heart attack or even die.

In an editorial published this week in the British Journal of Sports Medicine, Elin Ekblom-Bak of the Swedish School of Sport and Health Sciences suggested authorities rethink how they define physical activity to highlight the dangers of sitting.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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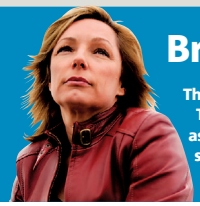

Broadcaster says sorry for in-flight fracas

The next time a flight attendant tells her to sit down, Colleen Walsh says she will listen. The former Toronto broadcaster apologized yesterday after she was fined $2,400 for assaulting a fellow passenger and breaching the federal Aeronautics Act during an outburst she partly blamed on menopausal exhaustion. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Tomorrow's Metro

Comment

John Sewell writes about local issues facing the GTA in Urban Compass.

metronews.ca
WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Haitian-born Montreal police officers return to their home country to join the relief effort at **metronews.ca/canada**

Blogs Among the criticism of the world's response to the tragedy in Haiti, Spindoctor also sees plenty that has been done well.

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Activists dog PM's T.O. visit

Canada's convalescing economy may have topped Prime Minister Stephen Harper's agenda yesterday, but anti-prorogation anger ended up hijacking his Toronto road show.

It's just a taste of what's to come Saturday, when thousands are expected to gather at rallies across Canada to protest the shutdown of Parliament, said Walied Khogali, who helped organize the demonstration.

Harper visited the institute for a roundtable discussion about the economy with high-powered business and banking executives, such as TD Bank president and CEO Ed Clark and Elyse Allan, head of GE Canada.

He also addressed his 11-member Greater Toronto and central Ontario regional caucus at a closed-door meeting at a Toronto hotel. Members included newly minted Sen. Linda Frum and cabinet minister Lisa Raitt.

The prime minister didn't make himself available to answer questions from reporters at either event.

Stephen Harper

Harper has defended the decision to prorogue until March 3, saying the extra time was needed to adjust the government's policies now that the economy has moved from recession into the recovery phase.

But polls suggest opposition parties have largely succeeded in portraying the move as an attempt by the Harper government to evade scrutiny over its handling of the Afghan detainee torture allegations.

Media were not permitted in the Tory caucus meeting, but Harper's staff provided a transcript of his opening address, in which he outlined three priorities heading into the March budget.

"The first is to continue to deliver the stimulus, to complete that stimulus rollout of those projects in the year to come," he said.

"But to think again, to think beyond that, to begin to think about the deficit and deficit reduction …"

The third priority is to "do the things necessary to build our economy and create the jobs of the future," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Protest **Get back to work Mr. Prime Minister**

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

About 35 protesters demonstrating against the prorogation of the Canadian Parliament gather yesterday outside the CD Howe Institute in Toronto where Prime Minister Harper attended a roundtable meeting. Canadians Against Proroguing Parliament say hundreds of thousands of people have joined the movement to make MPs go back to work.

Detractors wary of Samsung deal

GREEN TECH Critics of a $7-billion green energy agreement between the Ontario government and South Korean giant Samsung said yesterday it gives a foreign consortium an unfair advantage over local wind and solar producers and will be a bad deal for taxpayers.

The agreement, which was to be signed today by Premier Dalton McGuinty, would see Samsung build wind and solar farms across Ontario to generate 2,500 megawatts of renewable energy, a source close to the deal said yesterday.

The Samsung project is expected to create up to 15,000 jobs in the province, a big step towards the Liberal government's goal of creating 50,000 new jobs by transforming Ontario into an international hub for manufacturing and exporting green energy technologies.

"This idea there's going to be 50,000 green jobs … is just a crazy fantasy."
Tom Adams, energy sector watchdog

That's unlikely to happen, said energy sector watchdog Tom Adams. He noted countries like Denmark that have had some success with wind power have been supported by electricity rates that are subsidized by its European Union neighbours.

"The idea that we're going to repeat the Danish success by following the same model here assumes that electricity consumers are prepared to put up with this kind of (subsidy) craziness for the long term, and I don't see it," Adams said in an interview.

"This idea there's going to be 50,000 green jobs created by this is just a crazy fantasy that has no bearing whatsoever in reality."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 7

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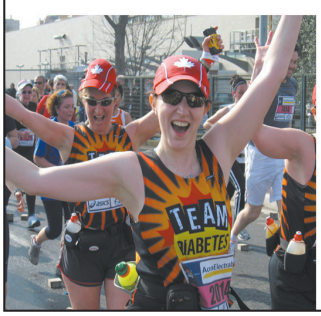

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U of T student snags research opportunity in India

British Council in India has invited University of Toronto student Amy Jiang to study climate effects on the mountain ecosystem of the Western Ghats. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Fantino summoned

OPP chief vows to fight influence allegations

Ontario's top police officer has been served with a summons over an allegation he influenced or attempted to influence municipal officials.

Ontario Provincial Police Commissioner Julian Fantino confirmed that he received a summons yesterday and said he intends to vigorously defend himself and the force against the "vexatious allegation."

In a statement, Fantino said he has "absolute confidence in the ultimate outcome of this process."

Activist Gary McHale has been trying to have Fantino charged after the commissioner allegedly sent an email in 2007 telling the mayor and councillors in Caledonia not to attend McHale's rallies.

Julian Fantino

McHale has led a number of rallies in the community south of Hamilton to protest what he called two-tier justice in the policing of an aboriginal land occupation.

The case was put over earlier this month until Feb. 3 after the Crown asked the court in Cayuga for more time to review new evidence relating to the allegation. A charge of influencing or attempting to influence municipal officials is a Criminal Code offence that carries up to a five-year prison term.

The attorney general's office has said a special prosecutor will be assigned from the Justice Prosecutions Unit, which was set up to handle cases involving police or other justice officials.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fundraisers gather to beat women's cancers

HEATHER BUCHAN
for Metro Toronto

Some passersby stopped to stare, while others rushed by, craning their necks to get a glimpse of the unusual sight in the heart of the city.

And what a sight it was: Thirty people in pink T-shirts, headbands and boas dancing on the concourse level of the Hudson's Bay Centre at Yonge and Bloor streets. The spirited performance marked the kick-off of a new direction in cancer research funding.

For eight years, the Weekend to End Breast Cancer — during which participants walk 60 kilometres over two days — has raised funds for the Campbell Family Cancer Research Institute at the Princess Margaret Hospital.

But money raised at the weekend event will not only fund breast cancer, but gynecological and ovarian cancer research. The event has been renamed the Weekend to End Women's Cancers.

"(Gynecological cancer) is a relatively underfunded area in terms of cancer research," said Paul Alofs, president and CEO of The Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation.

HEATHER BUCHAN/FOR METRO TORONTO

Members of the Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation don their best workout gear for the kick-off to the 2010 Weekend to End Women's Cancers at Yonge and Bloor streets.

One of the people kicking up her feet yesterday was Sheryl Ambrose, a breast cancer survivor. Since her diagnosis four years ago, Ambrose has participated every fall, having raised $40,000 to date.

The first year she was so weak from the chemotherapy she volunteered while her teenage children walked.

"It's great walking through the neighbourhoods," she says. "We get the community all cheering for us. People give us coffee, drinks and a smiling face. It's gives you the drive to cope."

More information

- The 2010 Shoppers Drug Mart Weekend to End Women's Cancers takes place Sept. 11-12. For more information, go to end-cancer.ca.

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Cops put brakes on Angels
Provincial police say a two-year investigation has cracked a cell of Hells Angels and put a dent in the drug trade in eastern Ontario. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Grieving family faces deportation hearing

For the past three weeks, 7-year-old Daniela Korostin has made daily visits to her father's grave at Beechwood Cemetery.

Daniela's father, Vladimir Korostin, 40, was one of the four immigrant, non-union workers who were killed on Christmas Eve, when the scaffold they were working upon at a Kipling Avenue highrise complex collapsed.

Daniela's mother, Irina Cherniakova, 36, worries that those graveside visits by Daniela and her big sister Inna Korostin, 14, will soon stop, if the family loses a deportation hearing next month in Toronto.

On New Year's Eve, Cherniakova got a letter from the Immigration and Refugee Board, telling her she has a hearing on Feb. 23. The letter made it clear that her attendance was mandatory, to determine whether she and her daughters would be allowed to stay in the country.

For Cherniakova, who doesn't have legal counsel and who speaks little English, the meaning is clear: If things don't go well in the Victoria Street hearing room, she and her two girls will be deported to Israel.

HAND OUT

Irina Cherniakova and daughter Daniela Korostin, 7, daughter and ex-wife of scaffolding-accident victim Vladimir Korostin, face a Feb. 23 deportation hearing.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Terrorist pleads guilty, to walk free

TORONTO 18 A terrorist just two months away from the start of his trial pleaded guilty yesterday to helping train and indoctrinate young recruits and was set to walk free given the time he's already served behind bars.

Amin Durrani's surprise guilty plea of participating in a terrorist group marks the fifth guilty plea and the sixth conviction in the so-called Toronto 18 case, as a youth was earlier found guilty at trial.

It was not clear when exactly Durrani would be released from custody at Maplehurst Detention Centre in Milton, Ont., west of Toronto.

As part of the guilty plea an agreed statement of facts was entered containing everything Durrani admits to, including participating in a discussion about plans to storm Parliament Hill and behead the prime minister. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Credit for time served

- Amin Durrani, 23, was handed a 7.5-year sentence, but with the standard two-for-one credit for the more than 3.5 years he has spent in prison since his arrest Durrani was sentenced to serve one more day. He will also be on probation for three years.

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Porter boss honoured
The CEO Award of Excellence in Public Relations was awarded yesterday to Robert Deluce, president and CEO of Porter Airlines, by the Canadian Public Relations Society. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Talking crosswalk timers

City official explains the switch to 'countdown signals' at all crossings

In an effort to improve pedestrian safety, Toronto is converting all its pedestrian traffic lights so they have "countdown signals" indicating how much longer it will be before the light turns. The Toronto Star asked Bruce Zvaniga, manager of the city's urban traffic control systems, about the signals.

Q How many pedestrian signals are there in the city?
A 2,160.

Q How many have been converted to countdown mode?
A 2,100. Most of those that haven't yet been converted need special handling — such as lights near fire stations that are set to give fire trucks an automatic green light. That can interfere with the countdown. All should be converted this year.

Q How long is the interval between numbers?
A One second. If the countdown starts at 10, you have 10 seconds to cross.

Q How long does the white pedestrian silhouette last?
A Seven seconds.

Q What determines the length of the signal?
A The distance across the street.

Q How much time does the signal give pedestrians?
A When the countdown starts, it assumes pedestrians will walk 1.2 metres per second to get to the other side. That's 4.3 km/h. If you include the seven-second period with the white light, pedestrians must walk about one metre per second, or 3.6 km/h, to cross in time at an average street.

Q Who determines the timing?
A The signals are set using standards agreed on by most North American traffic engineers. It's also contained in the Ontario Traffic Manual, published by the province.

Q Should pedestrians be given more time?
A It's an ongoing argument. Giving pedestrians more time to cross means longer wait times for traffic — and pedestrians wanting to cross in the other direction. That can induce impatient pedestrians to cross against the lights. It can also hold up transit vehicles and other traffic waiting for lights.

Q Have the count-down signals led to fewer accidents and fewer deaths?
A Statistical information is still being gathered.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Election Metro at the polls

JOHN R. KENNEDY/FOR METRO TORONTO

JON THORPE/SUBMITTED

Metro columnist Enza Anderson stands outside City Hall, where she filed her election registration papers yesterday morning. The 45-year-old, who is running for a council seat in Ward 27, says she wants to improve TTC service, add more bike lanes and build a bridge to the island airport. Anderson (email: torontocentre2010@gmail.com) isn't the only Metro candidate in Ward 27 — interactive content manager Chris Tindal (inset) registered Tuesday. Tindal, a former federal candidate, highlighted city finances, transit, and smart development as three areas in need of special focus. His website is christindal.ca. The municipal election is Oct. 25.

$7B energy deal expected today

POWER An oversupply of solar technology foreshadows a cloudy 2010 for manufacturers, but a brighter outlook for more widespread adoption of the technology, analysts say.

Ontario is expected to announce a new green energy deal with Samsung Group worth up to $7 billion today. The plan is said to include the development of an additional 600 megawatts of wind and solar farms and stimulate jobs in the industry.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lives 'ripped apart' by accident, court hears

CRASH A Thanksgiving weekend crash that killed two women also forever ripped apart the lives of their family members and close friends, court heard yesterday.

Best friends, driver Cynthia Dougherty, 49, of Beeton, and passenger Mariarosa (Mar) Dalsass, 44, of Palgrave, died instantly in the multi-car crash on Highway 50 in Caledon on Oct. 6, 2007.

The women's husbands, fighting back tears, each explained to a Brampton court how the deaths of their wives, who are buried side by side, have affected their families.

The tragedy even touched Dalsass' neighbour's dog, a Jack Russell terrier named Miller, who still waits by the backyard gate for "Mar" to come home.

Steven Machado, 25, of Mississauga, pleaded guilty on July 28 to two counts of criminal negligence causing their deaths.

His brother, Brian Machado, 29, has yet to stand trial for his alleged role in the seven-car noon hour pile-up that ripped apart Dougherty's 1995 Grand-Am.

Loved ones described how Thanksgiving has become a day of sorrow instead of celebration, and how neither woman will celebrate future weddings, go on holidays or attend joyful family and friend functions.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sentence
- Justice Bruce Durno will hear sentencing submissions Feb. 24.

News in brief

WANTED Durham region police are on the hunt for a third Toronto man accused of abducting a witness outside an Oshawa courthouse. A warrant was issued for Aaron Michael McGee, 28, after a witness in a criminal court case was abducted on his way into the King Street West courthouse on Jan. 4.

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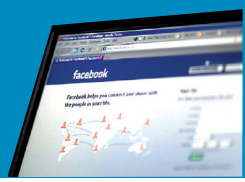
Police say deaths were murder-suicide

An autopsy confirms the deaths of two people last weekend in Ottawa were a murder-suicide. Police have identified the two as 33-year-old Andrew Ferguson and 24-year-old Ashley Boudreau. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada



No investigation into fight club

Winnipeg police say they are not getting involved in an alleged fight club at the University of Manitoba. They say they aren't investigating allegations a fight-club altercation was staged late last year. The University of Manitoba says it has disciplined several students and a staff member after discovering a Facebook page discussing fights on campus.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Feds to speed up Haitian adoptions

Immigration restrictions remain though

Haiti
Crisis

Canada will speed some adoptions of Haitian children following last week's disastrous earthquake, but it won't loosen immigration restrictions to accommodate others escaping the chaos.

Officials will expedite adoptions that were already underway and had received preliminary approvals before the magnitude-7.3 quake struck Jan. 12, Immigration Minister Jason Kenney said yesterday.

The federal government has tapped provincial authorities for lists of Haitian adoptions and it is consulting Haitian authorities on "fast-tracking" their foreign-adoption approval process, Kenney said.

About 100 adoption cases had been identified and all prospective parents were to be contacted by noon yesterday.

Once the Haitian government confirms the status of individual cases, Kenney said he's directed his officials to issue temporary resident permits — "an extraordinary measure" — to allow qualified Haitian children to enter Canada as quickly as possible.

Ottawa is sending additional staff to the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince to help with adoption cases and other immigration files, and it has set up an office in the neighbouring Dominican Republic.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

By the numbers

- Canadians missing: 543
- Canadians confirmed dead: 13
- Canadians located: 1,681
- Canadians believed to be in Haiti: More than 6,000
- Total death toll in Haiti: Roughly 200,000, estimate by the European Union, quoting Haitian officials.

Calgary **Torch takes a ride on Olympic chairlift**

JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Torchbearer Stewart McDonough carries the Vancouver 2010 Olympic flame up a chairlift at Canada Olympic Park, site of events at the 1988 Calgary Olympics, in Calgary, yesterday. **Follow the Olympic torch's journey with an interactive map at metronews.ca/sports.**

Phone company waives call fees

MONTREAL A Quebec telecommunications company has waived all long-distance fees to those desperately attempting to reach loved ones in Haiti, though no other phone providers in Canada have followed suit. Vidéotron will waive all fees on calls made to Haiti until Feb. 12.

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***Excludes national brand laundry appliances, microwaves and accessories.

NE013G310 © 2010. Sears Canada Inc.

Governments pump $3.1 million into Halifax co-op housing
Hundreds of people living in co-operative housing in Halifax are getting updated, more energy-efficient homes. The provincial and federal governments have announced $3.1 million in funding. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stabbed, beaten cat dies, two men hunted

HORROR Animal welfare officials call it a horrifying case — a cat was stabbed and beaten to death.

A witness saw two men repeatedly stab and kick a plastic bag in the early hours of last Friday in Windsor. The cat was found dead inside the bag.

"It makes me sick that someone could do this to a defenceless animal." Nancy McCabe, OSPCA

"It makes me sick that someone could do this to a defenceless animal," said Nancy McCabe of the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The cat suffered four fractured ribs while it was still alive.

The suspects are described as two white men in their early to mid-20s.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ottawa **Iggy rallies the troops**

FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Parliament may be closed, but Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff was working hard yesterday. He delivered a pep talk to his national caucus meeting on Parliament Hill.

Fake passport? That's normal, lawyer says

Many legitimate refugees use them, court told

A lawyer for terror suspect Mohamed Harkat says the Algerian's use of a false Saudi passport to enter Canada is something many legitimate refugees do.

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mohamed Harkat was all smiles after a court hearing last year.

Norm Boxall told a Federal Court hearing yesterday that Harkat didn't hide the fact he had the fake document when he arrived from Pakistan.

The government is trying to deport Harkat under a national security certificate, a rarely employed immigration provision.

The Canadian Security Intelligence Service alleges Harkat, arrested more than seven years ago, has ties to Islamic extremists.

The former gas-station attendant and pizza delivery man, who lives in Ottawa with his wife, denies involvement with terrorism.

Under questioning yesterday, a CSIS officer said Harkat's use of a false passport was a "contributing factor" in deciding he was an extremist.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

New workers to fight suicide 'epidemic'

MENTAL HEALTH A struggling Children's Aid Society in northern Ontario will get four new mental health workers to help it deal with what's being called a youth suicide "epidemic" in the James Bay area.

The province's Ministry of Children and Youth Services has granted a request from Payukotayno James and Hudson Bay Family Services director Ernest Beck for the additional workers, at a price of about $400,000.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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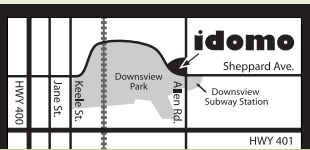

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DAVE CHIDLEY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty tells the media about his economic action plan in Windsor yesterday.

No budging in budget

Flaherty: We'll stay course

No change, folks. That's the Tory mantra.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty says the government will stay the course in the next federal budget.

Flaherty spoke yesterday in Windsor, where he held pre-budget consultations.

On the way into the meeting, Flaherty said there will be no major new spending initiatives in the budget.

Instead, he said, the government will continue with measures already announced to protect and create jobs.

He said the government plan has been working in southwestern Ontario, which has been hit hard, particularly with turmoil in the auto sector.

The federal budget is set for March 4.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

It's front-page news for papers

MEDIA Transcontinental Media has unveiled plans to centralize all page layout operations for its daily and weekly newspapers in the Maritimes.

The Quebec-based publisher said yesterday the cost-saving move will see all pagination and advertising placement handled in Charlottetown, at the offices of the daily Charlottetown Guardian.

The new operation will take over pagination and pre-press functions for six dailies in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, and about 20 weeklies and specialty publications in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

A Canada giant

- Transcontinental Media, a wholly owned subsidiary of Transcontinental Inc., is the fourth largest media group in Canada.
- It has more than 3,000 employees. Annual revenue was $648 million in 2008.

The new positions created in Charlottetown will be offered to the employees of the local newspapers who now hold similar positions.

Guardian publisher Don Brander said the move will increase efficiency.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kids' murder hearing delayed

CRIME Final arguments have been postponed in the case of a father accused of murdering his three children.

The trial of Allan Schoenborn was adjourned for one day, and the judge was to begin hearing final arguments today.

Ten-year-old Kaitlynne, eight-year-old Max and five-year-old Cordon were found dead in their Merritt, B.C., home in April 2008.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Government funding cuts likely in Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan residents will likely see funding cuts made to government programs as the province tries to cope with a revenue shortfall. Finance Minister Rod Gantefoer says "some cuts are to be expected" when the government tables its next budget in the spring. THE CANADIAN PRESS

JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec Premier Jean Charest, right, and Hydro-Quebec president Thierry Vandal announce a modified energy agreement with New Brunswick yesterday in Quebec City.

NB Power deal revamped

The New Brunswick government changed course on its plan to sell NB Power to Hydro-Quebec yesterday as it watered down the proposal after a public outcry and revolt in Premier Shawn Graham's Liberal party appeared to threaten the deal's survival.

Instead of selling almost all of NB Power, the rewritten agreement will see fewer pieces of the Crown utility going to Hydro-Quebec.

Hydro-Quebec will proceed with the purchase of New Brunswick's hydroelectric facilities and the Point Lepreau nuclear power plant for $3.2 billion.

The original $4.75-billion agreement also saw NB Power sell its transmission and distribution systems, which angered other premiers in Atlantic Canada, who feared Quebec would have a stranglehold on the energy pipeline to the lucrative market in the northeastern United States.

Under the agreement to be finalized by March 31, NB Power would continue to operate as a New Brunswick-owned and operated Crown corporation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alberta Tories nix hospital bed closures

HEALTH Alberta's beleaguered Conservative government is halting some unpopular bed closures at hospitals in Edmonton and Calgary — the second major reversal this week.

The province's health superboard had announced in September that about 300 acute-care beds would be closed to help reduce a $1-billion deficit.

But Premier Ed Stelmach shuffled his cabinet recently in the face of nose-diving polls and now his new health minister, Gene Zwozdesky, is living up to his reputation as a fixer who moves quickly.

Zwozdesky ordered the superboard yesterday not to proceed with the bed closures.

Alberta Health Services has been able "to find some efficiencies" that will allow the beds to remain open, said the minister. "So they do have a little bit of wriggle room."

Earlier this week, plans to transfer dozens of patients from Alberta's largest mental hospital were scaled back after a public backlash. About 150 of the 246 planned bed closures at Alberta Hospital Edmonton were cancelled. The issue had become a political liability for the Tories after prosecutors, psychiatrists and nurses raised concerns about public safety if some mental patients were forced to live on the streets.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

LOTTERY The Saskatchewan government is rejecting a call to remove video lottery terminals from the province's bars, restaurants and lounges. Christine Tell, minister responsible for the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority, said the machines have been a revenue lifeline for many struggling businesses in rural areas. Tell also said most people who use the machines don't have a gambling problem and there are programs to help those who do.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Opponents fighting New Hampshire same-sex marriage law
Three weeks after the state of New Hampshire legalized gay marriage, opponents are asking lawmakers to reconsider their decision and let voters amend the constitution to define marriage as a union between a man and a woman. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Faster tax deductions for Haiti charity

The U.S. House of Representatives has passed a bill allowing for faster tax breaks for U.S. donors to Haiti earthquake relief efforts. Under current law, donors would have to wait until they file their 2010 returns next year to take the deductions. The bill would allow donations made by the end of February to be deducted from 2009 returns. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

AFGHANISTAN The Afghan government and its international partners agreed yesterday to significantly increase the country's security forces and outlined plans to lure Taliban militants from the fight and to combat corruption in a bid to turn the tide of the war. A joint panel of officials from Afghanistan, the UN and troop-contributing nations approved plans to train more than 100,000 more security forces by the end of next year.

SRI LANKA UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is urging all parties in Sri Lanka to stop the violence ahead of the Jan. 26 presidential election which pits former army chief Gen. Sarath Fonseka against President Mahinda Rajapaksa. The two are regarded as the architects of the victory over the Tamil Tiger rebels last May. Last week, a 60-year-old woman was killed and nine others were wounded when gunmen sprayed bullets at a bus carrying opposition supporters. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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ScanLife

Tension over blacklists and long memories are roiling Iraqi politics, and the U.S. is dispatching Joe Biden to help. Scan this code for the story.

Powerful aftershock rocks Haiti

Tremor terrorizes already displaced people as most still wait for aid to reach them

Haiti Crisis

A powerful aftershock sent Haitians screaming into the streets yesterday, collapsing buildings, cracking roads and adding to the trauma of a nation stunned by an apocalyptic quake eight days ago.

The magnitude-5.9 jolt matched the strongest of the aftershocks that have followed the huge quake of Jan. 12 that devastated Haiti's capital of Port-au-Prince.

The new temblor collapsed seven buildings in Petit-Goave, the seaside town closest to the epicentre, according to Mike Morton of the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination agency, but there were no reports of people crushed or trapped, perhaps because the earlier quake frightened most people into sleeping outside.

Wails of terror erupted in Port-au-Prince, where the aftershock briefly interrupted rescue efforts amid the broken concrete of collapsed buildings, and prompted doctors and patients to flee the University Hospital.

Hundreds of thousands of Haitians remain homeless, hungry and in mourning — most still waiting for the benefits of a nearly $1 billion US global aid campaign that has brought hundreds of doctors and thousands of troops to the impoverished Caribbean nation.

The U.S. Navy's floating hospital, USNS Comfort, dropped anchor in view of the capital yesterday with about 550 medical staff, joining teams from about 30 other countries trying to treat the injured. About 250,000 people were hurt in the quake and aid groups say many people have died for lack of medical care or adequate equipment.

A slow vibration intensified into side-to-side shaking that lasted about eight seconds.

"It kind of felt like standing on a board on top of a ball," said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Steven Payne.

At least one woman died of a heart attack, according to Eddy Thomas, a private undertaker who was wheeling her body along a street in Port-au-Prince: "She had a heart condition, and the new quake finished her." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A.E.C. HONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Haitian worker Dimy Jean, right, tells people to back off before distributing relief supplies outside the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division's base in Port-au-Prince yesterday.

Government aid

All figures U.S.

- Canada: $130 million in aid pledged. So far, Canadians have privately contributed more than $39 million and Ottawa will match those funds.
- United States: $130 million
- Britain: $33 million
- France: $28.6 million
- Germany: $14.28 million
- Australia: $13.8 million
- Italy: $8.14 million
- India: $5 million
- Japan: $5 million
- China: $4.2 million

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Scholars with alleged ties to terror can travel to U.S.
Two prominent Muslim scholars once accused of having ties to terrorism can reapply to travel to the United States now that the State Department has concluded they pose no danger to the country, federal spokesmen said yesterday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Congo: World's deadliest war?

AFRICA The Congo conflict has been dubbed the world's deadliest since the Second World War, causing 5.4 million deaths, in a widely cited study. But a research group is challenging those figures, saying proper survey techniques would cut the number in half.

The figure of 5.4 million deaths since 1998 has become widely used since it was publicized by the International Rescue Committee, a private relief agency.

The figures jolted the U.S. and UN into elevating the Congo crisis on their agendas.

The UN Security Council cited IRC's figures in the process of deciding to raise a peacekeeping force for Congo, which has now grown to over 20,000 troops, the UN's biggest peacekeeping operation.

But a new review released yesterday says the statistics themselves are questionable, "dramatically elevating the 'excess' death toll" — deaths caused by disease, lack of food and medicine, and malnutrition.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sad irony for Democrats

Republican takes Kennedy's seat, threatening Obama's health-care bill

Shortly before his death last summer, Ted Kennedy described his efforts to reform the U.S. health-care system as "the cause of my life."

It's one of the bitter ironies for Democrats that the man who's replacing Kennedy in the U.S. Senate has vowed to essentially kill the very legislation that his predecessor helped construct as he was dying of brain cancer.

But on a day of celebration, recrimination, brainstorming and soul-searching in Washington's corridors of power yesterday, Democrats were vowing not to allow Republican Scott Brown's election as senator from Massachusetts prevent them from passing health-care legislation after months of fierce national debate that has dominated Barack Obama's young presidency.

Obama, on the anniversary of his historic inauguration, urged legislators to reach a consensus on the central hallmarks of the health-care bill.

CHARLES KRUPA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. Senator-elect Scott Brown from Massachusetts addresses reporters during a news conference in Boston yesterday.

"I would advise that we try to move quickly to coalesce around those elements in the package that people agree on," he told ABC News.

"We know that we need insurance reform. The health insurance companies are taking advantage of people. We know that we have to have some form of cost containment because if we don't, then our budgets are going to blow up," he said.

Brown's win Tuesday dealt a mammoth blow to Democrats because it breaks the party's 60-vote, filibuster-proof majority in the Senate at a time when health-care reform was nearing the legislative finish line.

Michael Steele, Republican party chairman, said Americans are breathing "a sigh of relief" after Brown's victory, and advised Democrats to "start from scratch and start by listening to the people."

But Nancy Pelosi, speaker of the House of Representatives, pledged not to give up on health-care reform, rejecting suggestions that Brown's election proves that even Americans in historically friendly states don't want it.

"We will move forward with those considerations in mind — but we will move forward," Pelosi said.

Andy Stern, president of the Service Employees International Union, said Brown's win was a "wake-up call" for Democrats that "now is the time for bold action."

"The reason Ted Kennedy's seat is no longer controlled by a Democrat is clear: Washington's inability to deliver the change voters demanded in November 2008. Make no mistake, political paralysis resulted in electoral failure," Stern said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Man surrenders after shootings

VIRGINIA A man suspected of shooting eight people to death at a rural Virginia home and then firing at a police helicopter surrendered yesterday after an overnight manhunt, but authorities were saying little about the victims or a motive. Police said 39-year-old Christopher Speight approached officers at the scene of the shootings and turned himself in.

Speight

The drama began around noon Tuesday when a man was spotted barely alive along the side of a narrow country road. The man died on the way to the hospital.

A deputy who answered the emergency call heard more gunshots, and seven other men and women were found dead inside and outside a nearby home.

Police surrounded a stretch of heavily wooded terrain overnight. As teams tried to flush out the gunman, he fired at a police helicopter and hit a fuel tank, forcing it to land. No police were injured.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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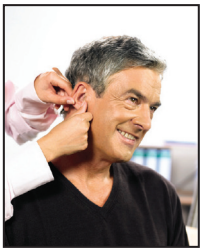

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Heavy rains in Eygpt cause more deaths
Three more Egyptians died in flooding in the Sinai Desert yesterday, bringing the toll for three days of unseasonably heavy rains to 10. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Twitter making money, Bill Gates takes plunge

NANOK BIE
Metro World News

Bill Gates joined Twitter Tuesday and attracted more than 100,000 followers in just eight hours — smashing the record previously held by Oprah Winfrey.

Twitter consequently crashed shortly after the news broke and just displayed the message "over capacity."

One of his first tweets read: "I've got a lot to learn about Twitter but look forward to sharing more."

Gate's tweeting coincided with an announcement by Twitter's founder Jack Dorsey that the business was profitable for the first time since its conception in March 2006.

Bill Gates

Twitter had defied critics by growing exponentially for years without any visible revenue stream.

There are no advertisements on the pages and no premium offering.

Now Gates' Microsoft and Google have announced search deals with Twitter.

In return for real-time access to the flow of comments on Twitter, Google and Microsoft pay Twitter to index and present search results respectively in their search engines.

Square chatting

• Twitter's founder Jack Dorsey recently launched another venture called Square aimed at letting anyone with a phone charge a credit card — just by inserting a small card swiper in the phone's headphone jack. METRO WORLD NEWS

Follow Metro on Twitter for news updates and more: @metrotoronto

Contest Beat the cold ... come to Canada

AXEL HEIMKEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Competitors dressed in beach wear sit in temperatures around the freezing point at the water's edge of the well-known landmark 'Aussenalster' in Hamburg, Germany yesterday. A Hamburg radio station is offering a trip to Canada to the participant in its winter competition who endures the icy temperature the longest.

200 killed in sectarian violence

EXTREMISM Charred bodies with scorched hands reaching skyward lay in the streets and a mosque with blackened minarets smouldered yesterday after several days of fighting between Christians and Muslims killed more than 200 people in Nigeria.

Sectarian violence in a central region of Nigeria has left thousands dead over the past decade, and the latest outbreak that began Sunday came despite the government's efforts to quell religious extremism in the West African country.

Jos was mostly calm yesterday, though many terrified civilians kept indoors while soldiers patrolled the streets. The city is situated in Nigeria's "middle belt," where dozens of ethnic groups mingle in a band of fertile and hotly contested land separating the Muslim north from the predominantly Christian south.

"Tensions seethe, and months or years later you have another outbreak."
Corinne Dufka, Human Rights Watch

There are conflicting accounts about what unleashed the bloodshed.

Corinne Dufka, senior West Africa researcher at Human Rights Watch, said what caused the latest spark was beside the point. The deeper problem, she said, is the government's failure to address underlying conflict in the region.

After similar bouts of violence in the past, Nigerian authorities have "come up with analysis, but they don't respond properly with concrete measures and policies," Dufka said. "Tensions seethe, and months or years later you have another outbreak." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ukrainian president shuns both candidates
Outgoing Ukrainian President Viktor Yuschenko said he will not support either candidate, saying both are alienated from democratic principles. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

world 17

Polar bear ban not needed: Watchdog

Says trade not significant threat to species

An international conservation watchdog has ruled that polar bears aren't endangered enough to need a global ban on trade that would place their hides in the same category as elephant ivory.

The ruling will make it tough for U.S. attempts to use the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species to end Canada's commercial polar bear hunt and will be welcomed by Inuit hunters who depend on the industry for millions of dollars a year.

"Trade is not a significant threat to the species," concludes Traffic International in its recommendation released yesterday. The average annual export of 300 bear skins a year from Canada isn't big enough to threaten overall numbers, it said.

Traffic, an international wildlife trade monitoring network that reports to CITES, looked at the issue of polar bear populations after the U.S. said it will ask the 175 countries that have signed the treaty to move polar bears to its highest level of protection. That level would effectively end all international trade in bear hides or other parts and cripple commercial hunting.

However, Traffic concluded that while the great white predators may be slowly declining, numbers aren't falling fast enough to require a trade ban.

Projected declines would have to be at least 50 per cent over the next 45 years to require a trade ban, said Traffic. The best information suggests the decline will only be 30 per cent. As well, Traffic points out the estimate of bear populations at between 20,000-25,000 hasn't changed in years. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Source of cash

- Hunters pay about $30,000 to go on a polar bear hunt, an important source of cash in small communities.
- Hunters who kill bears to feed their families can sell the hides for about $400 a metre for extra cash.

Princess bride's skeleton found

REMAINS She was a beautiful English princess who married one of Europe's most powerful monarchs and dazzled subjects with her charity and charm.

Now a team of British and German experts says it thinks it has found the body of Princess Eadgyth (pronounced Edith) — a 10th-century noblewoman who has been compared to Princess Diana.

"She was a very, very popular person," said Mark Horton, an archaeology professor at Bristol University in western England. "She was sort of the Diana of her day, if you like — pretty and full of good works."

Should the skeleton be positively identified as belonging to Eadgyth, it would be the oldest remains of any English royal discovered so far.

BRISTOL UNIVERSITY VIA PRESS ASSOCIATION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A coffin thought to contain the remains of England's Princess Eadgyth is excavated in the cathedral in Madeburg, Germany.

Eadgyth grew up at the dawn of the 10th century, a period during which her half-brother Athelstan extended his rule over all of England and drew on his sisters to cement his influence among foreign rulers.

Eadgyth was destined for Duke Otto of Saxony, a warlord's son who would become the first ruler of the Holy Roman Empire.

Eadgyth bore Otto at least two children, but like Diana she died young. Both died at age 36. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

GATE CRASHERS White House gate crashers Tareq and Michaele Salahi invoked their U.S. constitutional right against self-incrimination yesterday, refusing to answer a House committee's questions about their uninvited appearance at a state dinner for Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. The jet-setting couple repeatedly said they were remaining silent on advice of their lawyer. Tareq Salahi read an opening statement in which he offered to have the couple's lawyers provide information about their appearance at the dinner. Committee chairman Bennie Thompson rejected the offer. The Salahis' attorney said prior to the hearing that the couple believed they were invited to an arrival ceremony for the prime minister and the White House receiving line for the dinner. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment

Marriage – main cause of divorce

Relating

Is marriage good for you? The research continues. In San Francisco, the U.S. federal court hearing on California's Proposition 8, which prohibits same-sex marriage in the state, has heard expert testimony that significant health benefits accrue to married people relative to singletons, and the ban is putting gay people at greater risk of depression, suicide and substance abuse.

An economist also outlined the fiscal benefits for the cash-strapped state of letting gay couples marry, including increased consumer spending (and not just on weddings — married couples spend more in general), school funding and tax revenue.

Meanwhile, back among the heterosexual set, which still has a monopoly on marriage in all but five states, a new analysis of U.S. census data by the Pew Research Center claims marriage is an excellent economic deal for men, whose income outstrips those who don't marry.

This is a change from 40 years ago, when a stigma, and vastly inferior salaries, greeted working wives. So married men typically took a financial hit relative to bachelors. Now, women have more education and make more money, often more money than the mister. What's in it for women now? Good question.

Some married people, I find, sell the joys of conjugality a little too hard, encouraging any couples who have been dating longer than a year to follow them to Hitchville post haste. They do this when they're not half-jokingly trying to remember the last sighting of their sex lives.

And then there are those who have taken an interest in the institution in general, like the Institute of Marriage and the Family Canada, which decried a recent "Divorce Fair" in Halifax, an event that put prospective splitters in touch with lawyers, life coaches and other professionals.

Institute spokesperson Andrea Mrozek lamented the haste with which couples now contemplate divorce instead of sticking it out, and accused the divorce fair of "capitalizing on moments of difficulty or despair in people's lives."

But where are the institute's warnings for those who marry in haste in the first place? What if this "difficulty or despair" is a product of being married to the wrong person?

Personally, I don't knock marriage, but neither am I likely to try it. While it seems to work swimmingly for some people, contribute to healthier, happier lives and all that, it remains the leading cause of divorce.

Steve Collins offers his best guesses on relationships for Metro every two weeks.

Views

Sizing up fashion's plus-size model obsession

FourthWave

Fashion is a contentious and strange cultural beast to wrestle with — its idealizing of the female shape is the source of much dieting, disordered eating and insecurity, but it's an economic powerhouse that is dominated by women as well. It's difficult for me to reconcile fashion's simultaneously destructive and creative capacity.

So it piqued my interest when I saw photos from V Magazine's "Size Issue," which hit stands last week. It's one of contradictions; one series, titled "One Size Fits All," invites comparison between two models — "straight-size" model Jacquelyn Jablonski and former-model-turned-plus-size model Crystal Renn are photographed in the same clothes and poses. An editorial titled "Curves Ahead" stars four plus-size models, while "V Love U Just The Way U R" features bigger and older gals, gender-ambiguous models, men and minorities.

The whole issue sounds a lot like an after-school special: We love you — you average woman that measures size 12 — even with your lumps, bumps, creases and cellulite. Perhaps, however, what the rest of us need is not a condescending pat on the head in a single, solitary magazine issue, but some acknowledgement that the fashion world is out of step with reality, and perhaps an act of contrition by changing that.

Rightly or wrongly, magazines and designers influence women's psyches and sartorial choices — and as the saying goes, with power comes responsibility. Size 0 models shouldn't be mandated to pack on the pounds, but they should reflect the breadth (some wider than others) of our hips, our butts and our breasts.

The fashion industry does itself a disservice by not reflecting a range of body types — in fact, a 2006 British study found that average-sized models were just as effective at selling products as their skinny counterparts.

The whole thing draws similarities to Vogue Italia's "all-black" issue in July 2008. In the months since, there hasn't been a spike in black models on covers or runways, which makes me wonder: Are these inclusive gestures as token as the models they choose?

And why bother integrating them into the fashion world if all they're going to do is highlight how different they are?

As long as "plus-size" models are ghettoized in a special "Size Issue" and made an exception to the rule, the fashion industry and the women who follow it will never get over their complex of seeing fat as an aberration.

Canice Leung is a former editor of Ryerson University feminist magazine McClung's, copy editor at Metro, ardent feminist and loudmouth.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

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It is believed that some individuals have a genetic predisposition to a receding hairline *(most common in men)* or hair/follicle thinning over larger areas of scalp *(more common in women)*. These conditions result from hormonal changes caused by an enzyme in the dermal papilla called 5-alpha-reductase. This enzyme breaks down the hormone testosterone into dihydrotestosterone *(DHT)*.

Over a period of time, an over abundance of DHT causes the hair follicle to degrade and shortens the active phase of the hair, eventually leading to thinner hair and eventual hair loss.

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Specific compounds within the herbal extracts inhibit the 5-alpha-reductase *(and therefore reduce DHT)* to prevent or slow down the rate of hair loss. This process is the principle by which the prescription drugs such as Propecia *(finasteride)* work. However, BIO-FEN PLUS™ also contains additional compounds which remove excess cholesterol and testosterone – the building blocks of DHT.

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BIO-FEN PLUS™ capsules are usually effective at stopping hair loss within the first two months. However, since healthy hair grows only about 1 cm each month, it may take up to three months before you notice that hair growth is increased or further hair loss is stopped.

Anyone experiencing new growth will see it within four to six months. Once results become apparent, some users are able to reduce their BIO-FEN PLUS™ supplement dose to one capsule every second or every third day. Some clients will continue to take BIO-FEN PLUS™ daily. Once you stop completely, however, your hair growth pattern will slowly go back to the point where you started.

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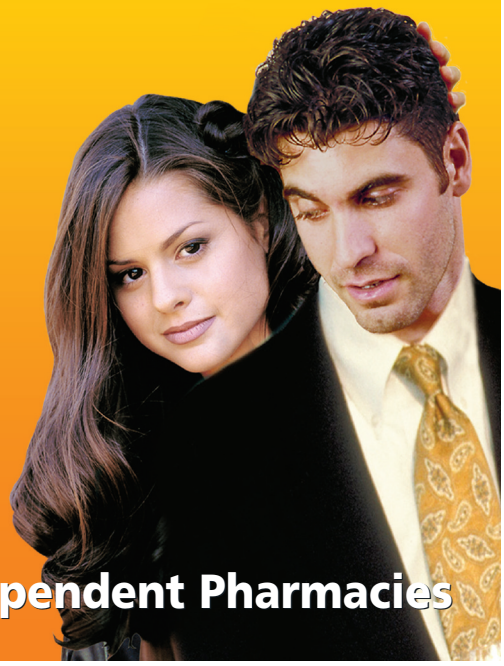

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Videotron adding 600 jobs in Quebec
Cable company Videotron says it will create 600 permanent full-time jobs in Quebec by the end of this year with a good chunk of the positions going to its new wireless network business. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Recession pushes more to buy homes

HOUSING More Canadian women today are buying homes for reasons of financial security, according to a poll by TD Canada Trust released yesterday. About 44 per cent of women polled said financial security was the best thing about home ownership, compared to 23 per cent in 2008.

Last year's recession may have prompted buyers to focus on real estate as a long-term, stable investment, according to the bank.

New-home sales in the Greater Toronto Area were up by 24 per cent in 2009 compared to a year earlier, according to figures released yesterday. However, the Building Industry and Land Development Association is projecting sales this year will be below last year. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Kindle Bigger slice for authors

BEN MARGOT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos displays a Kindle in this photo taken in October. Amazon said yesterday that starting in June it will offer authors and publishers a bigger cut of book sales on its Kindle e-reader — but with strings attached aimed at keeping overall prices down. To qualify, the book's list price must fall between $2.99 US and $9.99 US and be at least 20 per cent below the lowest price of the physical edition of the book.

Inflation rate remains tame

Canadian inflation remained tame in December, taking the steam out of the loonie's recent surge and giving the Bank of Canada even less reason to move off historically low interest rates.

Statistics Canada said the annual inflation rate ticked up to 1.3 per cent in December. But, say economists, consumer prices actually slid 0.3 per cent in December from November and core inflation, which excludes the volatile energy component, was a tame 1.5 per cent — below the bank's target of two per cent.

"There are two big factors at play — the underlying weakness of the economy means businesses can't raise prices and the other big factor is the renewed strength of the Canadian dollar, which is quashing import prices," said Douglas Porter, deputy chief economist with BMO Capital Markets. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Major cities
Previous month in brackets

- St. John's, N.L., 1.7 (1.2)
- Halifax, 2.5 (1.7)
- Saint John, N.B., 3.2 (2.4)
- Montreal, 2.0 (1.8)
- Ottawa, 1.2 (1.1)
- **Toronto, 0.8 (0.8)**
- Thunder Bay, 0.3 (0.1)
- Winnipeg, 1.0 (0.8)
- Regina, 1.5 (1.2)
- Saskatoon, 1.0 (0.7)
- Edmonton, 0.8 (1.1)
- Calgary, 0.2 (0.6)
- Vancouver, 0.7 (0.2)

Vale Inco restarts Sudbury smelter

MINING Nickel miner Vale Inco has restarted a smelter in Sudbury despite a strike by its workers. The company is using workers from other parts of its operations to run the smelter at 50 per cent capacity.

Meanwhile, striking workers at Vale's Voisey's Bay operations in Labrador have agreed to head back to the bargaining table after the company sent a new proposal. A company spokesman said the issues are different in Sudbury and no talks are scheduled there. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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INFORMATION FEATURE

Invest online with ease at RBC

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Online investing is easier than ever thanks to the changing face of online investors and the powerful tools put in their hands.

Jason Storsley, president and CEO of RBC Direct Investing, says the changes the online investing industry has gone through in a few short years have been staggering as the profile of the online investor has undergone a metamorphosis that defies stereotype.

"The profile of your average online investor has really changed over the last five years. It used to be mostly male investors just looking for the best stock prices. Now there is a much wider range of people looking to secure their financial futures online," Storsley said.

The proof is in the numbers, which show a sharp rise in the number of new investors flocking online to sites like rbcdirectinvesting.com.

"Our net new account growth is up more than 30 per cent. I think the key reason is that it's never been easier to get started as an online investor. There's a wide range of knowledge and wide range of experience at your fingertips. It's a lot easier for investors now to come in and build a strong portfolio," Storsley said.

The powerful tools offered by RBC Direct Investing have played a big part in the influx of new online investors, Storsley says, and RBC sees itself as an equal partner involved in every part of the investing relationship.

"We really see RBC Direct Investing as a partnership — we don't leave investors on their own. We recognize that our role is to help investors build confidence in their portfolios to meet their financial goals," Storsley said.

"We really see RBC Direct Investing as a partnership — we don't leave investors on their own. We recognize that our role is to help investors build confidence in their portfolios to meet their financial goals."
Jason Storsley, president and CEO of RBC Direct Investing

Independent research and performance index links on the RBC site arm investors with crucial knowledge to make strong investment choices while prepared investor profiles let you jump into an investment strategy fitted to your needs and goals, which have already been prescreened by RBC experts.

Features like RBC Practice Accounts, which let you test the waters using fake money in a real context, take a lot of the guesswork out of the online investing process and get acclimatized to the act of investing.

RBC's sophisticated asset mix calculator cuts through the confusion of creating a healthy, diversified portfolio by offering suggestions from trained experts on which investments to make, in what amounts, depending on your particular investor profile.

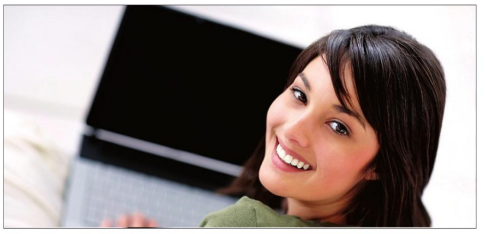
It's all about putting the power of strong investing directly into the hands of online investors themselves by making direct investing easier to understand and take control of.

"We've done a lot around helping our clients improve their financial literacy and investment knowledge. Investors are looking for more than just low cost — they're looking for tools and education so they can be confident that the decisions they're making are the right ones," Storsley said.

According to Storsley, RBC's youngest registered online investor is 11 years old, proof that age or prior investment experience are no barriers to getting started with online investing.

"Because of the advancements in technology, we're able to put very powerful tools in the hands of investors," Storsley said. "For those looking to take control, it really has never been easier to become an online investor."

For more information, visit rbcdirectinvesting.com.



RBC's Direct Investing program helps build investor confidence in their portfolios to meet financial goals.

Online ease

- Unlike the early days of online investing, modern online investors represent a wide cross-section of society with an almost equal split between men and women and a variety of young, old, new and experienced investors making use of online investment tools.
- Many more Canadians are choosing to manage some or even all of their investments online, with self-directed investors comprising roughly 15 to 20 per cent of all Canadian investors and the number of new online investors is growing rapidly.
- While trading stocks is still a common trend among online investors, pursuit of long-term investments and financial goals is more popular than ever among self-directed investors.
- With powerful investing education and analysis tools available online at rbcdirectinvesting.com, more investors than ever are finding the process of investing online easier and just as effective as offline.

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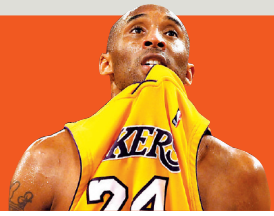
Sports



Kobe's jersey still top seller

Kobe Bryant, left, has retained his spot atop the list of the NBA's bestselling jerseys, while young stars Dwight Howard and Derrick Rose moved into the top five. Howard vaulted to No. 3 from No. 10 behind LeBron James. Rose, last season's rookie of the year, climbed to fourth from No. 11. Dwyane Wade was fifth. The list is based on sales at the NBA Store and nbastore.com since the start of the season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Raps lose despite Bosh's career night

Andrew Bogut had 27 points and 12 rebounds before fouling out and the Milwaukee Bucks held on to beat the Toronto Raptors 113-107 last night, overcoming Chris Bosh's career-high 44 points.

The Bucks, leading 103-100, appeared to be in big trouble after Bogut picked up his sixth foul on the offensive end with 4:11 left when Jarrett Jack slipped in behind him and drew a foul.

Bosh hit two free throws to cut it to 103-102, but Toronto failed to grab the rebound and Milwaukee went on a 7-0 run with a second-chance basket on each possession.

By the time Bosh scored his career-best 44th point on a dunk with 37 seconds left, the game was no longer in doubt. Bosh also had 12 rebounds

Jose Calderon's three-pointer gave Toronto an 87-86 lead early in the fourth, but newly acquired Jerry Stackhouse answered with a three and Milwaukee led 95-89 while Bosh missed two shots and was called for charging into Bogut.

Bosh's physical play got Bogut in trouble, too, and the seven-footer committed two fouls in a 38-second span to end his night. Instead of a rally by the Raptors, they fell to 3-5 when Bosh scores 40 or more.

This time, it was because the Raptors couldn't get a rebound on the defensive end.

Calderon scored 16 points for the Raptors.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shaq's plan

- Shaquille O'Neal has a plan to save the NBA's all-star dunk contest: Bring back the superstars and do it for devastated Haiti. Following Tuesday night's win over Toronto, O'Neal offered his idea. He would like to see former dunk champion Vince Carter, Kobe Bryant and others take part along with his teammate LeBron James. A cash prize would be offered, with half to go towards helping Haiti.

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
New Jersey 2 Florida 0
St. Louis 4 Montreal 3 (OT)
Vancouver at Edmonton

TODAY'S GAMES
Columbus at Boston, 7 p.m.
St. Louis at Ottawa, 7 p.m.
Florida at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Carolina at Atlanta, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
Washington at Pittsburgh, 7:30 p.m.
Detroit at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Nashville at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Chicago at Calgary, 9:30 p.m.
Dallas at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Buffalo at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.
Anaheim at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Milwaukee 113 TORONTO 107
Atlanta 108 Sacramento 97
Charlotte 104 Miami 65
Dallas 94 Washington 93
Portland 98 Philadelphia 90
Orlando 109 Indiana 98
Detroit 92 Boston 86
Oklahoma City 94 Minnesota 92
New Orleans 113 Memphis 111
New Jersey at Phoenix
Utah at San Antonio
Denver at Golden State
Chicago at L.A. Clippers

TODAY'S GAMES
L.A. Lakers at Cleveland, 8 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Denver, 10:30 p.m.

NFL PLAYOFFS

SUNDAY'S GAMES
AFC CHAMPIONSHIP
N.Y. Jets at Indianapolis, 3 p.m.
NFC CHAMPIONSHIP
Minnesota at New Orleans, 6:40 p.m.

MARK BAKER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Justine Henin reacts on her way to beating Elena Dementieva yesterday during a women's singles match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne. Henin won 7-5, 7-6 (6).

Henin scores upset

U.S. Open champion Juan Martin del Potro held off James Blake in a marathon five-setter yesterday, while Justine Henin advanced in her Grand Slam comeback with a 7-5, 7-6 (6) win over fifth-seeded Elena Dementieva.

Fourth-seeded del Potro beat his 30-year-old American rival 6-4, 6-7 (3), 5-7, 6-3, 10-8 in four hours 17 minutes on Hisense Arena, the second showcourt at Melbourne Park, to advance to the third round.

Seven-time Grand Slam singles champion Henin, meanwhile, was producing the biggest win of her comeback from 20 months in retirement by defeating Dementieva in the night match on Rod Laver Arena.

The second-round win for the unranked Henin was another step closer to a possible quarter-final match against U.S. Open champion Kim Clijsters, who scored a 6-3, 6-3 win over Tamarine Tanasugarn of Thailand.

"It was very emotional for me on the court at the end because there was so much intensity," Henin said.

"It's magical to win this kind of match in this kind of atmosphere."

It was Clijsters, who won a U.S. Open title only three tournaments back from a two-year retirement, who inspired Henin, another Belgian, to return to the tour.

Rafael Nadal and Andy Roddick continued their paths toward a possible semifinal matchup.

But the thread that ties Nadal and Roddick together from 2009 — Roger Federer, who beat Roddick in the semis last year before losing to Nadal in the final — will likely still have something to say about who the eventual champion is on Jan. 31. The top-seeded Swiss star is on the other side of the draw and couldn't meet either Nadal or Roddick until the final.

Nadal breezed to a 6-2, 6-2, 6-2 second-round win over Lukas Lacko of Slovakia while Roddick defeated Thomaz Bellucci of Brazil 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports in brief

QMJHL The Quebec Major Junior Hockey League announced yesterday that it will unveil "disciplinary measures" for Patrice Cormier, a forward with the Rouyn-Noranda Huskies, Monday. Cormier earned countrywide attention this week for elbowing Mikael Tam during a game and sending the Quebec Remparts player to hospital with brain trauma and broken teeth.

SOCCER Arsenal recovered from two goals down yesterday to beat Bolton 4-2 and move atop the Premier League. Arsenal joined Chelsea — which has a game in hand — on 48 points, one more than defending champion Manchester United. Tottenham stayed in fourth place despite a 2-0 loss at Liverpool.

NFL Pro football players sought U.S. lawmakers' help yesterday in preventing NFL owners from imposing a lockout after next season and said a league victory in a Supreme Court antitrust case could affect free agency and ticket prices. A league official said the players' time would be better spent negotiating with the owners than lobbying Congress.

BASEBALL Outfielder Andre Ethier has agreed to a $15.25-million US, two-year contract with the Los Angeles Dodgers. Ethier gets a $500,000 signing bonus and salaries of $5.5 million this year and $9.25 million in 2011.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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SCANLIFE
Handing franchise face Eric Staal the 'C' is only the beginning of big changes for struggling Hurricanes. Scan this code for the story.

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Pistons owner exploring sale of club
Detroit Pistons owner Karen Davidson says the option of selling the NBA franchise is being explored. Forbes valued the Pistons at $479 million US last month. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jays acquire 'power arm' from Giants

TRADE A day after settling with six arbitration-eligible pitchers, the Blue Jays added one more strong arm to their training camp roster, acquiring reliever Merkin Valdez from the Giants for an undisclosed amount of cash.

Merkin Valdez

Valdez appeared in 48 games for San Francisco last season, posting a 5.66 ERA and striking out 38 batters in 49⅓ innings. The Giants designated him for minor league assignment last week, but Jays' general manager Alex Anthopoulos says Valdez' 98 m.p.h. fastball made him worthwhile. "We're taking a chance on a power arm," he wrote in an email to the Toronto Star.

The acquisition of the 28-year-old Dominican brings Toronto's spring training roster to 59 players. Anthopoulos said Tuesday he hopes to bring about 65 players to camp.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

No escaping the past

Indy's Week 16 loss to New York is a topic the Colts can't hide from

NFL PREVIEW
Jets at Colts

Peyton Manning is on a simple mission this week: Strike fast, stay on the field and take the Colts back to Miami.

The four-time MVP and his Colts teammates can't wait for the journey to begin.

Nearly a month after then-undefeated Indianapolis set off a national firestorm by yanking its starters early against the New York Jets, Manning & Co. will get another chance at them in this weekend's AFC championship game — even if nobody lets them forget what happened the first time.

"Do you expect to play all four quarters this week?" Manning was asked jokingly before he could even settle in at the podium yesterday.

"I do, yeah," Manning deadpanned, drawing laughter.

But in Indianapolis, this is no laughing matter.

Furious fans deluged local radio talk shows following Indy's 29-15 loss in Week 16, and fans weren't the only ones upset.

After the game, four-time Pro Bowl centre Jeff Saturday said he understood why Indy's home fans booed, other players seemed surprised by coach Jim Caldwell's decision to pull players early and Manning insisted nothing should be read into his body language even though he uncharacteristically kept his helmet on for most of the final 20 minutes that day. Since then, players and coaches have reached a consensus that they may not be playing in their third AFC title game since 2003 had they not done it this way.

"Really, we've tried to focus in on the things that we thought were in the best interest of our team to get us into the position we are right now," Caldwell said. "That was the ultimate goal."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANDY LYONS/GETTY IMAGE
Peyton Manning's Indianapolis Colts are one win away from a trip to the Super Bowl in Miami.

Manning vs. Ryan

- Since 2005, Peyton Manning has gone head-to-head with Jets head coach Rex Ryan — who was previously a defensive co-ordinator — five times. Manning completed 82 of 132 pass attempts for 1,136 yards with nine touchdowns and two interceptions. He is 4-1 in those games — the only loss coming in December after Manning left with a 15-10 lead.

Weather no help to Olympic planners

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

GAMES Winter Games officials have given up on any help from Mother Nature and will now be trucking in snow for the freestyle skiing and snowboarding events at Cypress Mountain, on Vancouver's North Shore.

The forecast for the week ahead suggests there will be no new snow for the mountain, nor will it get cold enough to allow them to make any, organizers said yesterday after their final board meeting before next month's Games. "We are planning that we will not have snow," said Cathy Priestner Allinger, executive vice-president of sport and Games operations for the organizing committee, known as VANOC.

Contingency plans are now being rolled out, which include using straw and wood to take the place of snow to build the base for the courses.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Silver for McIvor

Canada's Ashleigh McIvor won a silver medal at the skicross World Cup yesterday. She finished behind Marte Hoeie Gjefsen of Norway in the final at Blue Mountain in Collingwood. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver Games

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Plenty of snow in Whistler

KRISTEN THOMPSON
Metro Canada

Whistler's Olympic Park is all ready to welcome athletes, three weeks before competition starts.

Unlike Cypress Mountain, which has been cursed with a lack of snow, the biathlon circuit has twice the amount it needs and planners are expecting more snowfall before the Games start, said John Alder, general manager of Whistler Olympic Park.

"We are ready at all the competition areas," Alder said yesterday. "They are being groomed daily."

The Park will host 28 medal events in biathlon, cross-country skiing and ski jumping, the first time in Olympic history all three events will be held at one venue.

John Heilig, ski jump manager, said the venue has 32 pipes with coolants running under the snow, keeping it cold in the warm, damp weather.

"The fog isn't an issue," he said. "Our biggest challenge would be really heavy snowfall."

Whistler's athletes' village is also in its "finishing touches" phase, with housekeeping staff working on putting sheets on beds and kitchen crews prepping the dining hall, which will serve 11,000 meals a day.

"This is a very exciting time for us," said Tim Morrison, general manager of Whistler Village. "(In a matter of weeks), this will be the home of the world's best athletes."

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO CANADA

John Heilig, ski jump manager, stands at the base of the ski jump venue yesterday at the Whistler Olympic Park. Heilig said the venue is ready for athletes, three weeks before the Games begin.

McKeever on verge of history

HINTS DROPPED Brian McKeever wasn't ready to celebrate yet, but Canada's cross-country ski federation strongly hinted yesterday that the visually-impaired skier from Canmore, Alta., will make history as the first winter-sport athlete to compete in both an Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Cross Country Canada issued a release stating the complete Olympic team will be announced tomorrow in Canmore. The organization all but announced McKeever's appointment to the team by saying "the contingent of athletes will include the world's first winter-sport athlete who will compete in the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in the same year."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Metro Homes

Mingle time

With space for hors d'oeuvres and a wine glass, the Great White Mingling Plate makes hand shaking and re-fueling with second helpings easy. Pottery Barn, $9, potterybarn.ca.

JENNIFER BILL/FOR METRO CANADA

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

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Bring on the new, but keep the old

Suite Talk

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Keeping a space exciting and fresh without going overboard is no easy feat, but The Neighbourhood in Cardinal Point succeeds by melding the old and new.

Built in Stouffville by Geranium Homes, the Promenade model suite shows off the power of light to create drama in a space, yet still feel like home.

The spacious, loft-style bungalow shows off the residences at Cardinal Point well, with two-storey vaulted ceilings, a main-floor master bedroom and ensuite and top-end features like chocolate veined marble kitchen countertops, natural finish laminate flooring and rich, tactile finishes throughout.

Seen here are some shots of The Neighbourhood at Cardinal Point.

Sue Webb Smith, marketing director for Geranium Homes, says the model suite is set up to showcase just how easy it can be for empty-nesters to upgrade their lifestyle without having to give up their favourite furniture.

"When people move from larger homes to smaller ones, there are very specific decisions they make about what they keep. We took some furniture we thought would be integral to what people really love and we wanted to integrate them into a modern setting," Webb Smith said.

Rich wood shades combine with punches of colour and modern steel tones in appliances and lighting, creating a sense of excitement.

"When you marry creams, browns and whites, you can punctuate them with drama," she said.

"Light is very important in a townhouse," she says, adding that it is a key feature in the model suite, from large windows and a skylight in the kitchen, to carefully placed lighting elements throughout.

"(It's) not just in the use of natural light … chandeliers can really give you a depth that feels intimate."

The Lowdown

- The Neighbourhood at Cardinal Point
- Builder: Geranium Homes
- geraniumhomes.com
- Available now
- Sizes & prices: two- and three-bedroom designs from 1,790 sq. ft. to 2,185 sq. ft., $359,900 to $419,900.

Aria Lace Cutout Coasters ... cushion cups or glasses in style. Available in white, black and red, these coasters are cut from stain-stemming ornamental felt. Urban Barn, $5 for set of four, urbanbarn.ca. JENNIFER BILL/FOR METRO CANADA

Based on a 50-year-old design and handmade in Czech Republic, the Encased Amber Flute is a deeply golden flower held in place between a slim stem and a ridged, mouth-blown bowl, while this Backyard Champagne Flute is handmade in Poland. Anthropologie, both $19.35, anthropologie.com.

Homes in **Style**

Drinks on us!

JENNIFER BILL
for Metro Canada

Dirty Martini, Cosmopolitan, Grey Goose on the rocks — the very thought can make one smack their lips in anticipation.

Mix in chic decor, a bartender in the know, and a lively mix of people, and you've got yourself a cocktail party, where the little black dress is always welcome and wine, beer and the mixed cocktail — traditional or trendy — are the featured players of the evening.

Celebrity designer and trend expert Marc Atiyolil said a cocktail party's decor should be carefully chosen to create the desired mood.

"I personally love a contemporary setting ... A 'back to nature' colour scheme using white and lime green paired with shades of brown is quite popular," said Atiyolil, editor-in-chief of Canadian Home Trends magazine.

"Too little colour makes it look plain and boring and too much colour will look like you are hosting a party for your 5 year old. Opt for two to three colours that work well together and your place will exude a stylish yet sophisticated look."

Accentuate your elegant side and play up the ambiance with dainty floral arrangements, floating candles in vases or tumblers, and mirrored serving trays.

The EZ Pull Six-Drink Server is a stainless steel six-head dispenser with chrome finishing and a suction base for sturdy balance that rotates easily. With a spill and leak proof push-up pouring mechanism, it can be used for 750ml or 1l bottles. Canadian Tire, $49.99, canadiantire.ca.

Fill this party-sized Glass Drink Dispenser with sangria, punch or any iced thirst-quencher. Pottery Barn, $115, potterybarn.ca.

Why stir when you can shake! The stainless steel Bullet Cocktail Shaker is a sleek and stylish way to shake up a martini. Holds 22oz. Urban Barn, $32, urbanbarn.ca.

Make professional cocktails right at home with this stainless steel bar set, which includes strainer, stirrer, jigger, can opener, ice tong and ice bucket. Canadian Tire, $29.99, canadiantire.ca.

For those who like to keep things simple and not take up too much space, this artistic and abstract Level Wine Rack holds four bottles in perfect balance. Urban Barn, $40, urbanbarn.ca.

This modern Step Six Bottle Wine Rack is a practical and decorative piece, made from chrome plated wire, to easily display your wine while keeping bottles safe. Urban Barn, $28, urbanbarn.ca.

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Are suburbanites ready for the condo craze?

RooftopSurfing

Over the last 15 years, the proportion of high-rise condo suites as a percentage of total new home sales throughout the GTA has grown steadily. For the longest time, condos commanded a 20 to 25 per cent market share and we all thought that was the limit. But the condo quotient continued to grow to the point that we got used to a one-third, two-thirds split as a rule of thumb.

When the condo market share hit 40 per cent a few years ago we called it "The Year of the Condo." Then, in 2007, the high-rise market took off to the point where condo sales outstripped low-rise sales, accounting for 52 per cent of all new home sales that year.

The year 2008 saw condo sales rise even higher (pardon the pun) to an astonishing 55 per cent of total new home sales, which was apparently the peak as last year condos retreated to 45 per cent of the market.

No matter how much the condo market has grown, 80 per cent of the units have been built within the City of Toronto. Outside the 416 area code, Mississauga and Markham have seen most of the suburban condo development.

Clearly, we have a healthy high-rise condo market in the GTA and that's a good thing. But apropos of last week's column on whether families want to live in condos in the City of Toronto, I'd like to turn the question around to ask if suburbanites are ready for the condo craze.

Markham is considering a proposal to create a food-belt, which brings with it 100 per cent intensification, meaning all new development will be high-rise in nature. Provincial policy dictates 40 per cent intensification as a balanced target.

"Markham is considering ... 100 per cent intensification, meaning new development will be high-rise in nature."

The farmers don't want the food-belt and I expect the backlash from existing Markham/Unionville residents to snowball once they realize what it means. What do Metro readers think? Let me know your views by texting me at 416-948-8654 or e-mailing me at president@bildgta.ca.

Stephen Dupuis is president and CEO of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD). He can be reached at president@bildgta.ca.

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Are the pinks and blues blanketing the rooms of your children wearing on their nerves? Here are some tips on redecorating their room in their vision — with your watchful eye.

Kids in need of upgraded decor?

HomeScape

As a teenager, I remember having pink elephant wallpaper in my closet.

My parents finally took pity on me and outfitted me with a groovy orange wallpaper throughout when I was 12. Was I relieved or what? My girlfriends could no longer hoot with derision at what was left of my childhood wallpaper.

These memories drift through my head as I contemplate the increasingly loud jockeying from both of my children, who are fast outgrowing any hint of sweet childhood in their choice of bedroom decor.

It's inevitable, and a rite of passage for all offspring who can no longer be happily lumped into the "child" category.

At this time of transition, the teen bedroom becomes increasingly important, and as more than a place to sleep and do homework. It becomes a place of refuge, and a place where they can chill with friends, away from the constant gaze of adult supervision (but not too far from it).

From the point of view of decor, it should give them a chance to develop a sense of who they are, all the same, parental limits are sometimes necessary, especially when it comes to budget. But negotiations with teenagers must be handled delicately. Here are some guidelines to make the process as smooth as possible:

The Exploration

- Encourage teenagers to explore websites and check magazines and books for pictures of what they like.
- Tell them not to worry much about budgetary or other limitations at this point; that will come later.

Back to reality

- You as the payer of bills must decide on a budget ahead of time. After your teenager has explored ideas, let your teenager know what the family can afford.
- If the wish list includes new furniture but the budget does not make provisions for this, consider repainting, or reupholstering, for example.
- If the list is too long for the budget, set priorities.
- Try to remain as open as possible. A black accent wall is not the end of the world.

More options

- If your teen has expansive plans for a small space, it may help to zero in on the actual physical dimensions of the bedroom and together, explore and identify necessary and desired activity or functional "zones." Consider different configurations before you decide there is not enough room for any particular "zone," such a socializing corner with throw pillows, for example.
- Stay away from themes in large pieces of interior decor, such as rugs or bedding or wall treatments. Teenagers change quickly and a much-desired theme (say, DJ graphics) may prove an embarrassment to them next year when they decide they're into other things. Use inexpensive themed accessories that may be changed without too much financial pain.

–SYLVIA PUTZ

Sylvia Putz is a journalist with an interest in decor and design. She's written for the TV show Arresting Design; sputz@arrestingdesign.com.

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Well-informed realtor

Your realtor should always keep you informed and return your calls/emails in a timely fashion and they should clearly differentiate between facts and knowledge, and their own personal likes and dislikes. AMIT PAUL/FOR METRO CANADA

Choose the right realtor

Real estate agents are a bit like Tim Hortons coffee shops, you can find one on just about every corner. Problem is that 87 per cent of the 22,000 licensed realtors in Toronto will no longer be practising in the next five years. So here are a few pointers to help you pick out the cream from the rest of the crop.

Above all else, nothing beats a good referral from a trustworthy friend. If someone you know has only nice things to say about their realtor even after the move, you can take it as a resounding vote of confidence. Like so many other things the follow through makes the world of difference.

Now, if you're going the pioneer route and choosing one individually, always remember who's in charge: You!

Advertisements, canvassers and the Internet can usually give you a good indication of the most active realtors in your area. Advertisements are specifically designed to get your business so don't just go with the hype. Choose four to five agents from different offices, to start with, and interview them. If none of them works out continue with the search.

Question each on their experience, knowledge, and commitment. You wouldn't hire a part-time surgeon to perform your surgery, so why hire a part-time, or otherwise uncommitted, realtor to help with the largest transaction you'll ever make? Ask for a list of referrals (past clients) and make sure to use the list. It's the next best thing from an actual referral. Educate yourself on how successful, active, professional and personable they are. Ask them why you should choose them from the rest. For many agents this will trigger a trademark response but what you're looking for here is sincerity. Most of the top agents will have identical statistics, designations and other decorative features but the best of the best will have a genuine and likable personality, the kind you will want to work with. In a "people-business" like real estate, the quality of the person definitely makes a difference.

How the agent presents the first document that requires your signature is a true test. If they lead with the hook line and sinker rather than explaining what you're signing and a concern for your level of comfort, you might want to rethink your decision.

During the actual buying or selling process your comfort level should grow continuously, like a blossoming friendship. Never feel hesitant about asking questions. Pushing personal preferences for facts is pushing for a sale, and the only pushing your realtor should be doing is for the best possible price, in your favour.

Amit is a Realtor/Developer with Re/Max. amitp@rogers.com

New house not up to city code?

LegalMatters

Q I recently purchased a home and soon thereafter received a letter in the mail from the Building and Inspections Department indicating that there was an Order of Compliance for the walk-out stairs from my basement. Upon further investigation, it was discovered that the permit to build the stairs had not been closed with the city because they did not have an engineer's report outlining that the underpinnings of the cement staircase had been properly constructed. This was all work done by the former owner. What should I do?

A The first thing you should do is contact your lawyer who assisted you with the purchase. In the past, before title insurance was introduced into the real estate transaction system, you lawyer would have written a letter to the city verifying that the property was compliant with all permits, zoning and would know in advance if there were outstanding permits.

This process is now replaced with a one-time payment title insurance policy that will address issues that may arise after your purchase; which would have been discovered had this particular letter been written. However, if you knew that there was a problem with an open permit, as one of my clients has been made aware recently before he purchased a property, the issue will not be covered by the insurance policy and a claim would be denied (this is somewhat akin to a pre-existing condition in health insurance policies or the U.S.).

Presumably, if there is a problem with the stairs that require remedial action, your lawyer will be able to assist you with preparing an insurance claim and having the issue rectified. It is important in this process that you involve the city and its inspectors who are generally very receptive and are acting in the best interests of you as well as any visitors to your property who may be at risk. Once a compliance order has been issued it is important to keep your local inspector up-to-date.

Jeffrey Cowan is the principal with Cowan Taylor and McGee, Barristers & Solicitors. The information in this article should not be relied upon as legal advice.

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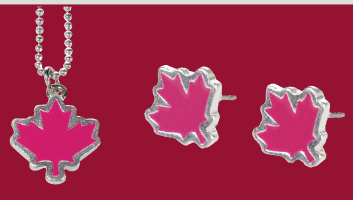
Claiborne closing Canada division

Liz Claiborne Canada Inc. has an agreement with Laura Canada to assign the majority of its retail store leases across the country. And, Claiborne retail stores in Canada will close gradually from February until the end of October 2010. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Style



Go glam for patriotism

Show your Olympic support with style by sporting Foxy Original's new "Go Canada" necklace and earrings collection. Fifty per cent of the net proceeds from online sales of the pieces go to the Canadian Association for Advancement of Women and Sport. Available starting next month, each retail for $25 at foxyoriginals.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

6 Trends for spring '10

JANINE FALCON
for Metro Canada

"Fashion's eclectic and edgy fall was in part a reaction to the economical times," says stylist and lifestyle expert Janette Ewen, who is a regular on CityLine.

This spring is taking on a less aggressive, more feminine personality, she says, which is still influenced by the recession, but more about escape. Here are six trends that hit the highlights:

1. The Jacket

Yep, the tough girl is still around, with her bold shoulders, distressed jeans and military jackets, which, says Ewen, have "softer lines, a Boer-era styling in beaten-up green and khaki." Military jackets were strong at Balmain, with long tails and elaborate epaulettes and Burberry Prorsum, which featured sharp, trenches in army beige. Safari-style toppers also stood out at Aquascutum.

2. Pale Neutrals

Shades of nude, blush pink, pastels, misty grey and white married with sheer, airy and drapey textures lend vulnerability rather than provocation at Antonio Berardi, Calvin Klein and Alberta Ferretti. "It's a visible-lingerie look, with a '20s and '30s soft silhouette, shaped without boning," explains Ewen.

3. Brights

Statement shades of yellow, red, purple and green accents pop against a white palette at Bottega Veneta, and broadcast a playful vibe with splashy prints at Marc by Marc Jacobs and Blumarine, and Lady Gaga-esque graphics at Alexander McQueen. Orange is a hot hue; it hit the catwalk for Lanvin, Donna Karan and others.

4. Short Hemlines

Mini skirts and dresses give legs more airtime as warmer weather approaches. Look to Chanel's short-skirt suits, Proenza Schouler's swingy frocks — just about every designer hit at least above the knee this season. As well, shorts from walking-length to wee strutted down the catwalk at Phillip Lim, Costume National and more.

5. Ruffles

Ruffles and ruching made the detail-difference in the aforementioned military and safari jackets and added glam and at times girly flourish at Stella McCartney, Chanel, Lanvin and Marc Jacobs. "There's a Lolita look this spring — whimsical, sweet and innocent rather than seductive," Ewan says.

6. Prints

"Florals, roses, cabbage flowers — they're everywhere," Ewen notes. Flowers bloomed at Rebecca Taylor, Derek Lam and Luella, and mixed with tribal at Diane von Furstenberg.

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The Room designers win award
Yabu Pushelberg received the Retail Design Institute's (RDI) prestigious Store of the Year award in the 39th annual International Store Design Awards for its work in creating The Room at Hudson Bay's Toronto flagship store. METRO NEWS SERVICES

DIY fashion for budding talent

Toronto classes teach teens sewing, design

Most emerging designers can only dream of having a built-in following before they unveil their first collection, but at an early age Emma Lewis was already crafting creations that resonated with fashion fans.

So when the Toronto sewing studio Sew Be It Girl decided to start a clothing label for teens, it didn't take long to settle on who would be the first designer.

Find out more at sewbeitgirl.com

"Emma was one of the reasons that kind of helped us to inspire the idea because every time Emma makes a dress, everybody wants to buy it," said Dilys Tong, co-owner of Sew Be It Girl.

Lewis, 15, started taking classes at age 10. She initially attended the odd sewing camp at March Break and during the summer, but that ramped up to weekly classes where she expanded her skills and learned to draft patterns from scratch.

"I was really a small girl, so I just love making clothes for my body," said Lewis, sporting a skirt she designed, matched with a black top and glittering tights.

"I just wanted to create things that were my own and be proud of them, and I love fashion, so it was just a great mix."

Tong said the label aims to go beyond creating stylish clothes. It's focused on providing mentorship and guidance to budding teen designers along with all the different components of putting together a collection.

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Emma Lewis poses for a photo wearing one of her creations at Sew Be It Girl in Toronto. The 15-year-old is the first teen designer to launch a collection under the Sew Be it Girl label.

"People think design (is) 'Oh, you whip up a sketch' but along the way, there's a lot of bumps you have to go through," she said.

"We have to talk to them like, 'Look, your client may not want to buy this' or 'This fabric does not go with this' or your buyer is just going to say, 'We did this colour two seasons ago, you may want to rethink that.'

"It's not that you can design whatever you'd like — you have to think of a lot of aspects."

Lewis started working on the label last summer and created five key pieces.

Among the designs are a pair of black dresses punctuated by bold colour. One features an oversized heart, the other a large-scale flower inspired by a sweater worn by fictional fashion plate Carrie Bradshaw on Sex and the City. And she even incorporated eco-friendly materials into the mix, for example by using bamboo knit in a top.

Tong said while most young students attending workshops are planning to pursue a future in fashion design or merchandising, others are doing so solely as a hobby.

"There's not many spaces that cater to the teens and tweens so I thought it would be nice to have a space that's safe and the girls can come and they can be inspired," she said.

Once Lewis wraps up her tenure as Sew Be It Girl label designer, she still has designs on a future in fashion. She hopes to attend Parsons in New York and wants to take part in the school's summer program in Paris to take design illustration.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

To view photos of Matthew Williamson's new spring menswear collection, visit: metronews.ca/style

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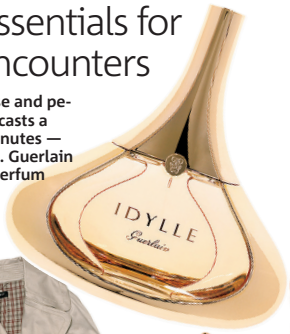

Be mine Underneath it all. Club Monaco Pearls on Chiffon necklace ($59, clubmonaco.com)

Second skin This nail polish is worthy of its own love story. YSL La Laque in Beige Chiffon ($24, at Holt Renfrew, Murale and the Bay)

Flash and lace The look of love. Underwear, La Senza (So Free Bra, $39.50; Ooh La Lace panties, $12.50, lasenza.com)

STUDIO ANDRÉ DOYON

What lie beneath Isn't that a sexy thought? Double-breasted trench, Mango ($170, Mango.com)

Hot to trot With this sleek Celine shoe, you don't walk — you strut, sauter or stroll ($875, at Holt Renfrew, holtrenfrew.com)

Hold me close The tools of seduction deserve the perfect purse. Ruched clutch, Jenny Bird ($360, jenny-bird.com)

SWEET DREAMS

Brad Rudin is calling for a style revolution. "We want to do for sleepwear what Bob Dylan did for folk music," says the co-founder and creative director of Bamjamz, a new loungewear and sleepwear line that debuts at Holt Renfrew stores across Canada in February. "It's about energy, youthfulness and waking up in the morning with a smile on your face." That might sound like a tall order, until you feel the fabric — an ultra-soft bamboo blend that is naturally wickable, breathable and thermal regulating.

PHOTOSHOP

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Cowell inks $500M deal with Sony
Simon Cowell has signed a $500 million US deal with Sony. The two-year contract with the entertainment giant will see him rake in the staggering sum — expected to tip his fortunes close to the $1 billion mark. **FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK**

Entertainment

Grammy tribute
In an unprecedented move, this year's Grammys will pay homage to Michael Jackson in a tribute that will include a 3-D film clip the pop sensation made before his June 25 death. **PEOPLE.COM**

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Crazy Heart, sensible sound

Crazy **Heart**

Album: Crazy Heart OST
Label: New West/Universal
Rating: ●●●½

IT'S A GIVEN that a movie about a washed up country singer would have an excellent soundtrack. Especially if the music is supervised by T-Bone Burnett. Crazy Heart's soundtrack is loaded with fantastic songs by legendary artists — Hello Trouble by Buck Owens, Are You Sure Hank Done It This Way by Waylon Jennings, If I Needed You by Townes Van Zandt — but it's the original music sung by Jeff Bridges, Colin Farrell and Robert Duvall that really make this an interesting disc. Bridges' gruff voice on the bluesy country tune Hold on Now is a must hear.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Spoon

Album: Transference
Label: Merge
Rating: ●●●●

WHEN A BAND comes perilously close to mainstream success, as Spoon did with its last disc, the group can go one of two ways: Play to the masses or retreat. Britt Daniel's latest falls somewhere in between. The band's new stripped down sound is immediately apparent on the first listen. It's sparse, the choruses and verses aren't as distinct, and the group stays mostly mellow throughout. But, on closer inspection, the hooks that propelled the band forward the last few years are still there. It's still clean, refreshing pop and proves that increasing fame hasn't changed the band.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Hawksley **Workman**

Album: Milk & Meat
Label: Six Shooter/Warner
Rating: ●●●

HAWKSLEY WORKMAN has nearly done it all. He's taken on folk music, brash mainstream pop, laid-back rock and now he tackles grungy sounds and electro-pop dance on his latest releases. Meat & Milk isn't really a double disc — the former is getting physical distribution, while the later is a digital release — but it's still billed as a double disc. Meat is the mellower, lo-fi of the two — Song for Sarah Jane is a haunting piano ballad — while Milk is an upbeat club-friendly record. Both are pretty good — they show off Workman's diverse songwriting skills — but Milk is more fun.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Jeff Bridges stars as a washed up country singer in Crazy Heart.

Ringo **Starr**

Album: Y Not
Label: Universal
Rating: ●●●

A BEATLE DESERVES the best and Ringo gets it from an all-star cast of collaborators that includes Ben Harper, Joe Walsh, Van Dyke Parks, Dave Stewart, Gary Wright, Richard Marx, Don Was, Joss Stone and, of course, Paul McCartney. At 69, Ringo takes over production duties for the first time in his long career, as well as much of the song writing. Some of the compositions seem a tad ham-handed or contrived (Peace Dream — his tribute to John Lennon — in particular), but the album is carried by the Beatle drummer's unflappable charm and good nature. Standouts include Ringo's duets with Sir Paul (Walk With You) and Joss Stone (Who's Your Daddy). Beatle fans will enjoy Ringo's nostalgic The Other Side of Liverpool. This is Ringo's best effort since the '70s.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Delphic

Album: Acolyte
Label: Polydor
Rating: ●●●½

THE SOUND OF 2010 according to the U.K. press sounds an awful lot like 2008. Manchester's Delphic may be the hottest band in England but its exploitation of synths 'n' guitars sounds an awful lot like Klaxons, Bloc Party and Friendly Fires. And all at once, handily, which is why the group will likely get away with it. That said, Acolyte is some seamlessly constructed electro-pop. First single Doubt scatters breakbeats to give urgency to the ringing guitars and pleading chorus, and Counterpoint actually beats Bloc Party at its own game of late. Delphic may come across as second wave new ravers but there's enough here to see why Britain's infatuated with the band.

Cam Lindsay/for Metro Canada

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Yo ho ho and a bottle of ... piña colada?
The fourth instalment of Disney's popular Pirates of the Caribbean series will be filmed in Hawaii, according an announcement Monday by Gov. Linda Lingle. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Helen Mirren on the The Last Station platform

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Oscar-winning actress Helen Mirren takes on another towering historical figure in The Last Station, playing Sofya Tolstoy, the fiery wife of the great Russian author at odds with his philosophies and disciples.

Q How do you make a character as melodramatic as Sofya sympathetic?

A Because she's a drama queen, you could alienate the audience really fast. You don't want the audience to necessarily like or or love her, but to go along with her. You had to feel that this is just how she felt, this was real for her. When I watch the film, there's one moment when I blow it. I look at that, those awful moments when you see yourself and you go, "Oh, you shouldn't do that. That's wrong, wrong, wrong." And there it is, and you can't take it back.

Q What was it about Sofya that made you want to take on the role?

A Oh, my God. What do you think? That kind of volcanic creature ... Also, I was sent it very soon after I'd done The Queen, and as a actor your dream is to get something that's the opposite of what you've just done. Obviously, The Queen is such a repressed, interior character who doesn't show anything. Sofya is the absolute opposite.

Is playing a countess a demotion after playing so many queens?

Q You know, every actress who gets to be the kind of age I am always gets to play a queen or two because very often they are interesting roles that we want to write plays or films about. So it's not just me who gets to play queens. Most actresses have gotten to play a queen or two.

Last Station is in theatres tomorrow

Q Once again, you've been courting some Oscar buzz. Are you looking forward to awards season?

A Last time, I just was constantly sitting through these long, endless evenings. I was always the last one up. It was brutal. "Just let me get home, please. Let me drink." I could never drink. Everyone else was having a ball and I'm just sitting there. But it's so important for this kind of film for things like that to happen. It's a small film, it doesn't have a big marketing budget. And with these little independent films, it's getting so hard to get them out there at all. And in the next few years it might become even more difficult. I love the big movies. Avatar is fabulous. But the library of film has got to be broader than that.

Q And up next you star in an adaptation of Shakespeare's The Tempest, only with a gender reversal.

A It was to give me a great Shakespearean role to play, because Shakespeare, damn him, gave crap female roles.

They're all crap. Even Rosalind is crap. I mean, she talks a lot, but it's not a great role. And as you get older, they really drop away. So the only way for me to get to play a good Shakespearean role is to change the gender. With Prospero, you can change it into a woman without changing very much of the text. In fact, one of Prospero's speeches is lifted lock, stock and barrel from Madea.

Shakespeare just took it. It's incredible. Like, three words are changed.

Helen Mirren and Anne-Marie Duff in The Last Station

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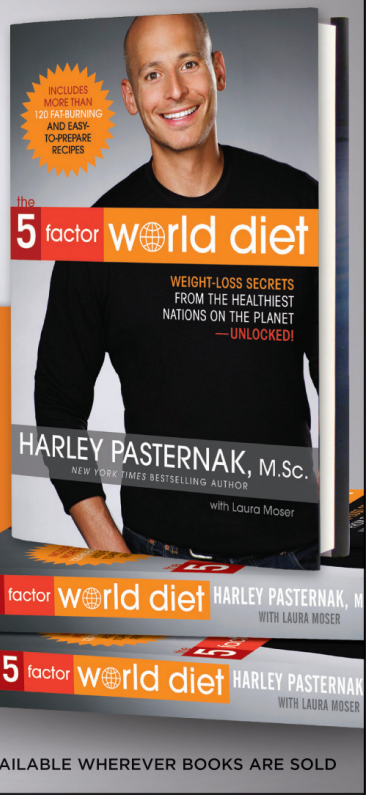

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Boyle opens up to Oprah
Susan Boyle wants the world to know that she isn't crazy. During an interview on the Oprah Winfrey Show, Boyle brushed off all those reports that she was unable to deal with being transformed into an international star. **POPEATER.COM**

Woodpigeon takes flight

Die Stadt Muzikanten is the new album from Woodpigeon.

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada

The day before Woodpigeon's new album came out, Mark Hamilton — the band's singer — was in his Calgary home, getting ready to lie down after a rough day. He sounds tired, only getting excited when he brings up leaving Alberta.

"I've been pretty lucky the past couple of years," he says. "I've spent five months out of the year away from here playing in places I want to go to."

His family keeps him in the city, and while Hamilton doesn't seem to mind the city too much, he admits he doesn't really fit in.

"Calgary's not the most open city," he says. "It has a million people with one gay bar."

Perhaps his more closed environment is one reason Hamilton hasn't addressed his sexuality on his records. That is, until now. On his latest disc, Die Stadt Muzikanten, the singer — who says he "doesn't live in the closet, but I don't run around with the rainbow flag in my back pocket either" — gets more specific about gender than he has in the past.

"I've always said stuff like 'I love you', but I've never used gender before. On this CD I wanted to be very specific. This is who I am."
Mark Hamilton

"For a gay singer to be referring to gender, for me, that's a big thing," he says. "I've always said stuff like 'I love you', but I've never used gender before. On this CD I wanted to be very specific. This is who I am."

That honesty comes through on a number of tracks — Our Love Is as Tall as the Calgary Tower is a haunting tune about losing a lover, while …And as The Ship Went Down is also about a troubled relationship. Overall, the record — which was inspired by his grandparents' life in Austria during World War II and their move to Canada — is easily Woodpigeon's best. Similar to Grizzly Bear, Hamilton layers his tunes with rich vocal melodies, delicate instrumentation and lots of reverb. It's all very infectious and easy on the ears.

It's also Hamilton's ticket out of Calgary, and a life he once hated.

"I worked a proper job and it's not something I ever want to go back to," he says. "I get to wander around the world — I don't see anything wrong with that life."

PHOTO BY NIKKI CHARLETON

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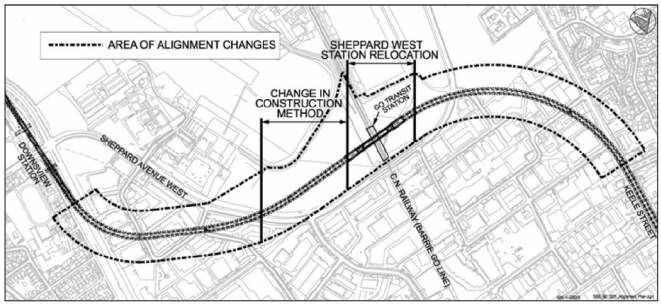
TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION AND THE CITY OF TORONTO

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ADDENDUM REPORT TO THE TORONTO-YORK SPADINA SUBWAY EXTENSION

Downsview Station to Steeles Avenue Individual Environmental Assessment (EA)
Change in Station Construction Methods and in the Horizontal and Vertical Alignment

The Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) and the City of Toronto are undertaking a study to amend the approved Environmental Assessment (EA) for the "Spadina Subway Extension – Downsview Station to Steeles Avenue" which was approved by the Minister of the Environment in October 2006. The amendment will study the environmental effects resulting from the:

- Change to the construction method from cut and cover construction to tunnelling for a distance of 425 ± metres between Sheppard Avenue West and the Canadian National (CN) Rail right-of-way;
- Modifications to the vertical and horizontal alignment between Downsview Station and Keele Street;
- Lowering of the Sheppard West Station box by 8 ± metres and relocating the station box 120 ± metres east directly below the CN Rail right-of-way; and
- Integration of the design and construction of a GO Transit Rail station within the CN Rail right-of-way directly above and integrated with the relocated Sheppard West subway station.



A change in construction method triggers the requirement to prepare an EA Addendum Report. The revised construction method will have scheduling and budgetary benefits and it is anticipated to result in reduced construction effects. All other changes, while within the amending boundaries of the approved EA, will result in changes to the environmental effects of the project.

The project is being assessed as an amendment to an Individual EA in accordance with the requirements in the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act*. Input from members of the public is important. Upon completion of the Addendum Report, the document will be available to the public for comment. A notice will be published when the report is available for review.

For further information regarding the project or the addendum process, please contact the Toronto-York Spadina Subway Extension (TYSSE) at (416) 393-4001, via e-mail at TYSSE@ttc.ca (put "Sheppard West EA" in the subject line), visit the website at: **www.spadina.ttc.ca**, or contact us at the address below.

Joanna Kervin, P. Eng. – Deputy Chief Project Manager
Third Party, Planning & Property
Toronto-York Spadina Subway Extension
5160 Yonge Street, Suite 1100, Toronto, Ontario, M2N 6L9

This notice was first issued on January 20, 2010.

Daper dandies

GQ magazine is declaring that Johnny Depp is the Most Stylish Man in the World ... or at least one of them. Also on the list are Robert Pattinson, Tom Brady and Brad Pitt. You can vote for your pick at GQ.com. **POPEATER.COM**

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Brittany's mother says daughter died of natural causes, not drugs

CELEBRITY DEATH A month after her sudden death, Brittany Murphy's mother and husband say they are convinced the actress died of natural causes, not drugs or an eating disorder.

In an interview with The Associated Press on Tuesday, Sharon Murphy and Simon Monjack said that Murphy did not use drugs or alcohol and that they are awaiting a determination from coroner's officials that will end speculation prescription medicine caused Murphy's death on Dec. 20 at age 32.

Murphy had mitral valve prolapse, a common condition where a heart valve does not properly close, but doctors said the actress "would live a long and healthy life," Monjack said.

"She had a fear of dying," Sharon Murphy said. "She would not take too much caffeine. She wouldn't even have a glass of champagne on New Year's. She was just high on life, and people see that as something else I guess."

Murphy, the star of varied films such as Clueless, 8 Mile, Sin City and the television series King of the Hill, was buried in a private funeral on Christmas Eve. At the service, Monjack told mourners that the actress was his best friend and soul mate, sentiments he repeated during the Tuesday interview.

Authorities continue to investigate her death but do not suspect foul play. An autopsy was inconclusive and coroner's officials are awaiting the results of toxicology and tissue tests before determining what killed the actress.

The pair worked frantically to save Murphy's life the morning she died, as revealed in a heart-wrenching emergency call where Sharon Murphy implores, "Brittany, please come back!" as Monjack performs CPR.

Monjack and Sharon Murphy remain in the Hollywood Hills home where Brittany Murphy collapsed a month ago. DVDs of some of Brittany Murphy's films lay near the entertainment centre, and several framed photographic portraits of the actress that Monjack shot adorn the walls and other areas of the living room.

"I'm comforted by these photographs," Monjack said. "I'm comforted by the transformation from girl to woman that I witnessed."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A marriage in Creation

Paul Bettany and wife Jennifer Connelly play Mr. and Mrs. Darwin in new film

ANNE BRODIE
for Metro Canada

Real life husband and wife Paul Bettany and Jennifer Connelly play Charles and Emma Darwin in Creation, the historical biography about the struggles of a marriage and society under intense strain.

Personal tragedies and Darwin's landmark research that cast doubt on the existence of God took a heavy toll on his pious wife. Hardly a picnic for the actors, but they're justifiably proud of their work.

Darwin circled the globe developing his theory of evolution, published in 1859 as On the Origin of Species. He said that life evolved through natural selection not through God's intelligent design. His book revolutionized 19th century thinking and remains one of the most important "discoveries" in human history.

According to the film, Darwin held off publication for Emma's sake and because of his severe depression over the loss of their daughter Annie, who was said to be the "apple" of his eye and his muse. Creation is based on keepsakes of Annie that Darwin collected that his great-great-grandson Randal Keynes Darwin discovered in 2000.

Bettany says he was keenly aware of the responsibility of playing one of the greatest, most innovative modern thinkers.

"He's been dead for a long while, so no one can really challenge me. There is so much research available to you that it's intimidating, and frustrating, because you always think the answer's in the books, the pile of books that you still haven't read. I can't possibly deliver the human being who possibly came up with the arguably the greatest idea human beings have ever come up with, I can't bring that intelligence for real.

"But I know about loss, I do know about madness, and I do know about relationships, and I do know about children. I know about those things and I know what they feel like and those things ground me. And then I try to look intelligent staring at particles!"

Emma Darwin was a "charming, intelligent, and cultured cousin" who was often perceived as cold. "As a mother she really suffered the losses of her children," says Connelly. "I think obviously it was devastation for her, but it was imperative that she be represented as strong and formidable as she was, so I endeavoured to portray a woman with great restraint and dignity. She didn't indulge her suffering but she felt very deeply these losses ... It was an effort to restrain it and keep it in. That is the way the Victorians were."

Director Jon Amiel says Connelly knew the unsympathetic role was risky. "Many actors are undone by their need to have the audience love them. Emma was to outward appearance quite stern and intensely reserved but an intensely emotional woman underneath. What's so moving is often when a character is unable to display an emotion, we feel it on her behalf. Jen's restraints in playing her made her so intensely moving."

Bettany's wades into vastly different territory in the vampire horror fantasy Legion, also in theatres tomorrow.

"Our vampires are very different," he says. "They're much more animals. I love vampire movies, I love zombie movies, and it's a bit of a guilty pleasure."

Paul Bettany in Creation

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SECOND CUP

Creation and Legion are both in theatres tomorrow

Music makes Fantastic Mr. Fox moments

MUSIC IN FILM As the credits of Wes Anderson's Fantastic Mr. Fox began to roll and the Bobby Fuller Four's Let Her Dance blared through the theatre at a recent showing of the movie, a young girl leapt to her feet and joined the on-screen characters, dancing in the aisle.

The endings of his films — from Bottle Rocket to The Royal Tenenbaums — constitute some of the most indelible final reels in recent moviemaking. They almost uniformly conclude in a poetic moment of togetherness, perseverance and, often, a wink of mischief. (Spoiler alert)

After a long battle both with the farmers and within his fractured, idiosyncratic family, Mr. Fox — though scarred — triumphs. His family is still stuck underground, but Mr. Fox discovers how they'll survive. The film ends with the group dancing in the aisles of a grocery store, owned by the same farmers bent on the animals' destruction. The ending came from Dahl's original manuscripts, not the published version.

"It was only when we had the song did I get, 'Here's what the mood is, here's what we're going to walk out of the theatre with,'" says the 40-year-old director. "The scene exists because of the song."

Anderson's endings are almost like distillations of his entire work. Again and again, he meticulously creates characters of wit, audacity and melancholy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bettany in Legion

A night at the opera
The Canadian Opera Company's new season will include perennial favourite Aida by Verdi as well as John Adams's hit contemporary piece Nixon in China. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Massive talent gathers for telethon

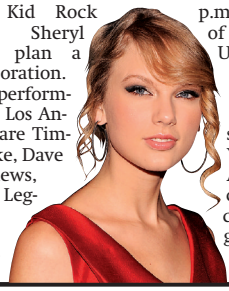
The music world's top stars are signing on for Friday's Hope for Haiti telethon.

Bruce Springsteen, Jay-Z, Taylor Swift, Justin Timberlake, Keith Urban and Alicia Keys are just a few of the performers who will be featured, according to MTV Networks, an integral partner in the two-hour event.

Hope For Haiti Now: A Global Benefit for Earthquake Relief will be an international event. Haitian native Wyclef Jean will anchor the show from New York, while George Clooney will do so from Los Angeles. CNN's Anderson Cooper will report from Haiti.

London has also been added to the lineup, and that's where Jay-Z will perform, along with Bono, The Edge and Rihanna in a special joint performance. Coldplay is also to perform from London.

In New York, Springsteen will perform, along with Jennifer Hudson, Mary J. Blige, Shakira, and Sting. In Los Angeles, Swift is to perform, and Urban, Kid Rock and Sheryl Crow plan a collaboration. Also performing in Los Angeles are Timberlake, Dave Matthews, John Legend, and Stevie Wonder.



The Hope for Haiti benefit will be televised on all the major networks at 8 p.m. EST, as well as a host of other networks in the U.S. and in Canada.

In addition, the telethon will be streamed live on Web sites including YouTube, MySpace and AOL, and can be purchased off iTunes for 99 cents with all proceeds going to Haiti relief.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mix of Six

MUSIC Dinosaur Jr, is joined by Lou Barlow & the Missingmen, and MC & EE at the Phoenix Concert Theatre. ticketmaster.ca.

SHOW The Interior Design Show starts tonight at the Metro Convention Centre. tidfonline.com.

READING Poet Janet Naidu reads from her new collection, Sacred Silence, at 2 p.m., at Founders Sr Common Room, York University.

PERFORMANCE The Paranormal Show, featuring mind reading, hypnotism and other feats takes place at the Papermill Theatre. theparanormalshow.net.

PLAY Pygmalion is being performed at the Fairview Library. stagecentreproductions.com.

BOOKS The Bookclub-In-A-Box Literary community centre open house at 875 Eglinton Ave. W. bookclubinabox.com.

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Avatars hit the workforce

For many companies, sci-fi characters are superior to humans

ELIZABETH BRAW
for Metro World News

In real life Byron Reeves is a bald academic. But Reeves also conducts research using with as his avatar, a strapping man with hair.

"Lots of companies already use avatars," explains Reeves, a psychology professor at Stanford University. "Using avatars, you can conduct meetings, meet clients and have brainstorming sessions without having to travel. In fact, you don't even have to leave the building. And you don't risk getting swine flu from shaking hands with an avatar."

Reeves, who specializes in human interaction with avatars, is the author of Total Engagement: Using Games and Virtual Worlds to Change the Way People Work and Businesses Compete.

Today companies like IBM, Cisco, SAP and Boeing use avatars — 3-D characters whose age, gender and appearance the user chooses — to interact with colleagues and customers around the world.

"Thousands of people at IBM meet every week through their virtual characters," notes Reeves. "Even recruitment is done with avatars."

Soon the 3-D characters may inhabit less technology-driven workplaces, too.

"Avatars will take over repetitive and boring tasks that humans find unfulfilling," predicts Reeves. "Humans still have to direct the avatars, but working through them is much more fun."

Reeves's experiments show that people are more stimulated — and their hearts beat faster — when directing avatars than when doing the tasks themselves. Office environments, too, can be spiced up in 3-D.

But Avatar, the movie, won't take over Planet Earth any time soon.

"The avatars in the movie are real-life characters, while the avatars we have now just live in a 3-D computer world," explains Reeves. "On the other hand, there are things I can do with my avatar that the people in the movie can't do!"

Don't laugh: she may be sitting over in the next cubicle.

3-D Dilemma

As many as one in 10 cinema-goers are blind to the groundbreaking 3-D effects of James Cameron blockbuster Avatar. A number of vision defects affect the ability to see the extra dimension of depth meaning millions are left wondering what all the fuss is about. According to experts, somewhere between five and 10 per cent of people are unable to see in 3-D. Even being slightly "cross-eyed" can affect the enjoyment of the 3-D experience.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Avatar – the movie version – is still playing in theatres everywhere.

primetime

1/21/10

TO	Vu	SD	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
cable variety	265	353	2	TVO	Super Structures (N)		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		The Street (Part 3 of 6) (N)		Masterworks: The Romantics		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Bones		The Office (N)	The Office	90210 (HDTV)		News Hour
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Office	Omni News: Italian Edition (N)		Vivere V	Omni News:	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Nature of Things (N)		Mounties Under Fire (N)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: Special Victims		Community (N)	Parks/Recreat	30 Rock	30 Rock	The Jay Leno Show (N)		News
	212	313	8	CTV	The Vampire Diaries (N)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigat'n		Grey's Anatomy (N)		The Mentalist (HDTV) (N)		CTV News
	218	345	11	CHCH	*Space Jam* ★★ (1996, Comedy) Michael Jordan.				*Ballistic: Ecks vs. Sever* ★ (2002, Action) Antonio Banderas.				News at 11 (N)
	-	-	14	-	Family Guy	The Simpsons	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	The Insider (N)	George Lopez	Nobel Peace Prize Concert		Supernatural (HDTV) (N)		The Insider	Hitchcock Pres	Becker
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Access H.	Big Bang Th	Big Bang Th	CSI: Crime Scene Investigat'n		The Mentalist (HDTV) (N)		News 4 at 11
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Community (N)	Parks/Recreat	The Office (N)	30 Rock	The Jay Leno Show (N)		News
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Deep End "Pilot" (N)		Grey's Anatomy (N)		(10:01) Private Practice (N)		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	TMZ (N)	Access H.	FlashForward		Fringe (HDTV PA) (N)		(10:01) Private Practice (N)		A News
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	Bones (HDTV PA) (N)		Fringe (HDTV PA) (N)		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	PBS NewsHour	My Hero	Doc Martin (Part 2 of 2)		Voyages of Discovery		MI-5		Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	The Vampire Diaries (N)		Supernatural (HDTV) (N)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Law & Order: Special Victims		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	The Office
	298	653	332	TLA	The Tyra Show		According/Jim	Family Guy	KTLA News	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Vampire
news	502	390	26	NW	Connect Today's biggest stories. (N)				CBC News: The National		The Nature of Things		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Situation Room-Wolf Blitzer		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow Report (Live)		Biography on CNBC		Scam: Bernie Madoff's Crime		Biography on CNBC		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	Hockey Power	MMA Conn	UFC Fight Night				Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
	400	400	30	TSN	NHL Hockey Toronto Maple Leafs at Tampa Bay Lightning. (HDTV) (Live)					NHL Hockey Chicago Blackhawks at Calgary Flames.			
	411	457	58	OLN	Ghost Hunters		Destination Truth		Oper. Repo	Oper. Repo	Ghost Hunters		Destin. Truth
	417	406	81	SC	Barrett-Jackson Automobile Auction (HDTV) From Westworld, Scottsdale, Ariz. (Live)								
family	551	542	25	YTV	iCarly	Fries That?	Malcolm-Mid.	Hates Chris	8 Simple Rules	What I Like	Family Biz	To Be Indie	Prank Patrol
	554	544	45	TEL	Stoked	Total Drama	Majority Rules	6TEEN	Futurama	King of the Hill	*Johnny Mnemonic* ★ (1995, Science Fiction)		
	556	540	51	FAM	Sonny Chance	Suite Life	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Supernanny		Dine With Me	Love It-List It	Confidential	Confidential	Divine Design	House-Sell	Love It-List It
	570	580	29	MM	Degrassi: TNG	Degrassi: TNG	My Date With...	disBAND	Video on Trial	Muchmusic Countdown			MuchOnDem
	615	520	31	A&E	The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV) (N)		Manhunters	Manhunters	Manhunters
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	La Soldatessa Alle Grandi Manovre				George Lopez	George Lopez	Lopez Tonight
	571	581	36	MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		Freddie Mercury Tribute		Entourage	Wild 'n Out	mmtop10.ca
	575	583	38	CMT	Amer. Funniest Home Videos		Reba	Reba	According-Jim	According/Jim	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	UnStable (N)
	616	521	39	SHO	Relic Hunter		*Odysseus and the Isle of the Mists* (2008, Fantasy)				Cra$h & Burn "Jump"		Law Order
	620	523	40	BVO	Storytellers	PhotoXplorers	Innovators	Writers	*Know Your Mushrooms* (2008)			O'Reagan File	Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Rich Poor	Rich Poor	X-Weighted "Debbi"		Bootcamp	Last 10	Re-Vamped		ET Canada
	522	506	43	HIS	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Ancient Discoveries		Ancestors	Ancestors	Nostradamus Effect		Blow Down
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Demetri Martin	Demetri Martin	Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Holmes Inspection		House-Bryan	Real Renos (N)	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes Ins.
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	House-Payne	House-Payne	Law & Order: Special Victims		*Aeon Flux* ★★ (2005, Science Fiction)		
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		Monica: Still	Monica: Still	*Soul Plane* ★★ (2004, Comedy) Kevin Hart, Tom Arnold.				Mo'Nique
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Lost		*Android Apocalypse* (2006, Science Fiction) (DVS)				InnerSpace (N)
	581	566	52	MTV	Peak Season	After	Cribs	Jersey Shore	Jersey Shore		Jersey Shore (N)		Jersey Shore
	618	524	54	TROP	Reality	Whatever	Family Guy	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	'70s Show	King	Comeback
	603	561	56	FOOD	Ricardo	Chuck-Day Off	Restaurant Makeover		Extreme Cuisine, Jeff Corwin		Ace of Cakes	Ace of Cakes	Restaurant
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		On the Buses	'Allo, 'Allo!	*The Perez Family* ★★ (1995, Comedy-Drama) Marisa Tomei.				
	621	527	63	STR	Look-A-Like	TMZ	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		The View (HDTV) (N)		The Dr. Oz Show (N)		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Backyardigans	Night Garden	Waybuloo	Franklin	Little Bear	Maggie-Beast	Babar	Zigby	Max & Ruby
	526	507	249	VIVA	Cold Case "Detention"		Missing "This Is Your Life"		The Closer		Cold Case "Detention"		Psychic Inv.
	300	601	301	M1	(7:15) *Race to Witch Mountain* ★★ (2009, Adventure)				*The Informers* ★ (2009, Crime Drama), Mickey Rourke				Cures
	305	612	306	PIX	(6:50) *Quigley Down Under* ★★ (1990, Western)				*True Grit* ★★★ (1969, Western) John Wayne, Kim Darby.				*Warrior Spirit*
	520	146	-	DISC	Daily Planet (N)		Dirty Jobs "Tofu Maker"		Dirty Jobs		MythBusters		Daily Planet
	637	-	-	TVLND	Red Green	Red Green	Fantasy Island		Hart to Hart		Andy Griffith	Phil Silvers	Bizarre
	605	-	-	FASH	Britain's Next Top Model		FashionTele	RAW	Canada's Next Top Model		Britain's Next Top Model		Top Model

critics'corner

Know Your Mushrooms
Ron Mann ("Grass," "Tales of the Rat Fink") applies his cheeky filmmaking style to the fungus among us with this documentary, which is packed full of fun facts about mushrooms — from the mundane to the magic kind — and the people who love them. Centered around an annual festival of fungi in Colorado, it introduces such colorful figures as Larry Evans, the "Indiana Jones of mushrooms." 9 PM on BVO

The Deep End
Call it "L.A. Law: The Next Generation." The lives of five rookie lawyers at a prestigious Los Angeles firm are the meat of this new drama series from David Hemingson ("How I Met Your Mother") and Jan Nash ("Without a Trace"). Between trying to resolve their ideals and the reality of the job, they've also got some interesting office politics to navigate. Matt Long, Leah Pipes, Ben Lawson, Tina Majorino and Mehcad Brooks star. 8 PM on ABC

Spiderman caught in new director's Webb

BLOCKBUSTERS Sony Pictures and Marvel Studios announced Tuesday that the (500) Days of Summer director Marc Webb will helm the next Spider-Man film following the departure of Sam Raimi and Tobey Maguire, the director and star who worked on the previous three Spidey films. The fourth installment is set for a 2012 release and will focus on a younger version of the superhero.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In brief

REALITY Canadian chef Michael Smith is headed to Iron Chef America to do battle in kitchen stadium. Food Network Canada says the host of Chef Abroad and Chef At Home will face off against New York celebrity chef Bobby Flay on Jan. 31, where the pair will concoct a meal using a secret ingredient. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kenya's Style

Kenya Hunt

Read the blog at metronews.ca/kenyasstyle

Celebs join bake sale for Haiti
Canadian celebrities such as Paula Brancati (Degrassi and Being Erica) and TV host Emmanuel Belliveau are taking over local bakery Bake Sale today to raise funds and awareness for Haiti relief efforts on behalf of Plan Canada. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Urban Foodie

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STEPHANIE DICKISON
TorontoUrbanFoodie@gmail.com

Adega Restaurante
33 Elm St.
416-977-9339
adegarestaurante.ca

Rating: ●●●●
Dinner & drinks for 2: $65

While Portuguese food is varied, you are bound to find fresh fish and seafood on the menu.

Tonight, we want to elevate our palates and get away from the comfort foods of the season. Here at Adega (translation: wine cellar), we want to revel in delicacies from the sea.

Freshly made bread and olives are brought right after we've been seated and given menus, highlighting fresh fish from Portugal & Azores Islands, Canadian Maritime Lobster, Norwegian Cod, Tunisian Octopus and Thai Tiger Shrimp.

On the web

- Get recipes and more great food content at metronews.ca/recipes

We decide to sample a bit of everything with the Oceano Platter ($35.00) — shrimp in piri-piri sauce, in-house smoked salmon, boneless butterflied grilled sardines, octopus carpaccio and squid atop grilled vegetables and pineapple. Salty sardines with tender meat, velvety salmon, squid that's cooked to perfection.

Fettuccine with Smoked Salmon ($17.95) in a light leek cream sauce follows. The salmon is made in-house as are the noodles, which are thick and heavy. It's a surprisingly hearty meal, thanks to the cream and dense noodles. And Adega's Signature Mediterranean Octopus ($$26.95) features two humongous brick-hued arms, grilled and garnished with a tangy tomato, red onion and caper salsa.

It's simply a seafood lover's delight.

STEPHANIE DICKISON/METRO TORONTO

Adega's Signature Mediterranean Octopus ($25.95)

Boutique booze trend in bars

DRINK If your liquor cabinet contains mostly familiar names like Chivas Regal, Jack Daniel's or Smirnoff, get ready to make some new acquaintances.

Small-scale distilleries making high-quality whiskey, gin, vodka and other spirits are taking off across the United States.

Boutique booze — formally called artisanal spirits — is a big trend in the bar business. Just as the market for craft beers and wines boomed during the past two decades, the audience has similarly grown for small-scale booze that is high quality and often higher priced.

"Why is this better? Because it's not produced for 10 million people; it's produced for 5,000 people," says Bill Owens of the American Distilling Institute.

He estimates the number of small distilleries at just over 200, and growing by 20 to 30 a year. They have sprouted up in more than three dozen states in recent years, with Oregon, California, Colorado, Michigan and New York the main players.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dining out

SAVE YOUR MONEY
If one of your New Year's resolutions is to cut back on spending, don't worry; you can still eat out and have a great meal. At Java House (537 Queen St. W.), you can have a good meal for under $10. Dishes to note? Its homemade tomato chickpea soup served with garlic toast, sandwiches and anything with noodles. Call 416-504-3025

GO VEGGIE!
Trying to incorporate more veggies into your diet? One of the best ways is to eat at Jean's Vegetarian Kitchen (1262 Danforth Ave.). This Malaysian/Thai casual spot serves up hot, crisp spring rolls, fresh papaya and mango salads, comforting, nourishing soups and curries and noodle dishes that are health-conscious as well as delicious.

In brief

NOODLING Craving comfort foods and carbs? Then get a hold of Phaidon's The Silver Spoon: Pasta, a collection of 350 pasta recipes. At your local bookstore.

TAMARI! Want to make sushi at home, but need authentic ingredients? Go to Sanko Trading Co. (730 Queen St. W.) where two aisles are stocked with Japanese food and gifts. Go to toronto-sanko.com or call 416-703-4550.

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She's still holding out for her true love, Jack Daniels

Kate Moss would like to elope with Jamie Hince, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The supermodel reportedly received a proposal from The Kills rocker on her 36th birthday last Saturday but insisted she doesn't want to marry him yet. **METRO WORLD NEWS**

Celebrity Buzz

Amy sentenced to two years of 'good behaviour'

THEN THE COURTHOUSE ERUPTED INTO GALES OF LAUGHTER, THE JUDGE BOWED AND SAID, 'THANK YOU. I'LL BE HERE ALL WEEK.' Amy Winehouse has pleaded guilty to common assault and disorder, female-first.co.uk reports.

The singer appeared in Milton Keynes Magistrates Court yesterday morning to answer charges relating to an incident last month, where she lashed out at a theatre manager after interrupting a performance with a foul-mouthed outburst.

The troubled star was given a two-year conditional discharge and ordered to pay more than $150 in costs and more than $200 in compensation to her victim.

Passing sentence, district judge Peter Crabtree said it was clear alcohol had played a massive part in the incident.

He said, "Mr. Pound is a person whose job involves interaction with the public. If he's assaulted he deserves the court's protection. In this case it's obvious that alcohol played its part."

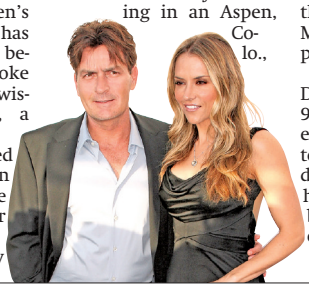
The judge said he felt the sentence was appropriate because it would force the singer — who has a history of drug abuse problems — to maintain good behaviour. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Brooke's wisdom tooth delays Sheen case

THE LAST THING SHE NEEDS IS TO HAVE MORE WISDOM REMOVED A hearing this week in Charlie Sheen's domestic violence case has been delayed two days because his wife Brooke Mueller had to have a wisdom tooth removed, a source tells People.

"She has been ordered by the doctor to stay in bed for 72 hours," the source close to Mueller says.

Mueller's attorney had filed court papers asking that she be allowed to attend Wednesday's hearing in an Aspen, Colo., court by telephone, but the judge instead set the session for Friday because the law requires both Mueller and Sheen to appear in person.

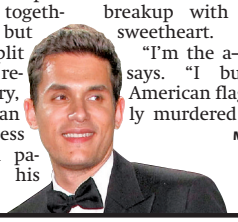


Sheen, 44, was arrested Dec. 25 after Mueller called 911 saying the actor threatened her. A judge issued a temporary restraining order against Sheen keeping him away from Mueller but not their 10-month-old sons. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Mayer confirms what we already know

STRAIGHT FROM THE DONKEY'S MOUTH John Mayer isn't proud of the way things ended with Jennifer Aniston, usmagazine.com reports. "I've never really gotten over it," he tells the latest issue of Rolling Stone. "It was one of the worst times of my life."

The singer, 32, first got cozy with the actress, 40, in April 2008 after spending five sexy days together in Miami, but went on to split twice — most recently last January, in which he held an impromptu press conference with paparazzi outside his NYC gym to, as he hints, take the blame for the breakup with America's sweetheart.



"I'm the a—hole," he says. "I burned the American flag. I basically murdered an ideal." **METRO WORLD NEWS**

Lohan mom under fire again for bad parenting

AND IN OTHER NEWS, THE SKY IS BLUE AND JOHN MAYER IS ANNOYING Lindsay Lohan is allegedly abusing herself again, sources tell Radar Online. A suspicious red mark was spotted on the actress' arm as she headed to a party at the Chateau Marmont recently with mom Dina Lohan, and sources allegedly say it's proof that Lindsay is cutting — something she's been accused of in the past.

"Why is Dina out partying with Lindsay when it's clear she's still cutting herself?" the source asks. "Dina should be getting Lindsay help, not following her to parties." **METRO WORLD NEWS**

Kournikova's mother charged with child neglect

IS HER MAIDEN NAME LOHAN, BY ANY CHANCE? Anna Kournikova's mom, Alla Kournikova, is in hot water after allegedly leaving her five-year-old son at home alone in Palm Beach to run errands, during which time the boy fell or jumped out of a second-story window, according to WPTV in Florida. The boy was reportedly found crying screaming and bleeding by neighbours, and Alla was arrested and charged with child neglect. **METRO WORLD NEWS**

Woods rehab pic sends handlers into frenzy

UNLESS HE WAS HOLDING A CUP OF BOOBS, I FAIL TO SEE THE PROBLEM HERE A new paparazzi image of Tiger Woods has surfaced (see it on RadarOnline), potentially ruining his handler's plan to release a carefully staged photograph of Tiger with his wife and children looking happy together, popeater.com reports.

"At the moment it's all about regaining control of the golfer's image," an insider tells popeater.com. "The plan was to let an appropriate time pass and then issue one photograph wide to everyone in the media showing the family back together.

"This was not the first picture of Tiger his handlers wanted the world to see. This is another PR nightmare for him."

In the paparazzi photo, Woods is seen looking at the camera, holding a cup and covering his head with a hooded sweatshirt. It's the first photo of the golf great since his Thanksgiving Day car wreck that led to his infidelity scandal. He's now reportedly in a Mississippi sex addiction clinic, according to Radar. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

JON FAVREAU wants to play dress-up, **PARIS HILTON** recognizes some of her family members in a movie, and **IVANKA TRUMP** demonstrates her business pedigree.

@Jon_Favreau Visited the Thor set. I would look cool in one of those costumes.
@ParisHilton Just finished watching 'Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles' the movie ha-ha
@IvankaTrump Drove by a car dealership w/ a huge sign saying "Our best deals of the year." It's Jan 19th, how good a deal can that be?

METRO WORLD NEWS

THE GOLD STANDARD
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$$ REWARD $$
FOR RETURN OF STUFFED BEAR ("Bear")

LOST IN THE AVENUE ROAD AREA SEPTEMBER 16, 2009
Bear's label reads "Russ". His fur is dark brown and so are his beady eyes. Bear sits and his paws are weighted. He is easy to spot with his bright yellow hospital I.D. bracelet from Soldiers Memorial Hospital (Orillia) and thinly knotted necklace in Ethiopian colours. PLEASE, if you have seen Bear, help to get this well travelled friend home again. He is missed by owner for use in various Huntington's Disease summer camps and drop–in charity events.
No questions asked and a reward is yours for facilitating the safe return of Bear. Thank you!
416-597-0841

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Metro

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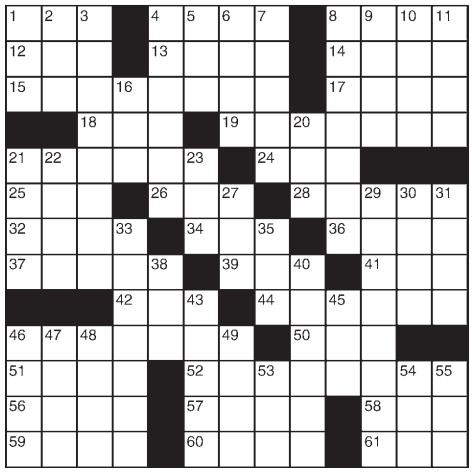
Take Five



ACROSS

1 — -jongg
4 Visibility hindrance
8 Be a model
12 Sch. org.
13 Ugandan despot
14 Easter emblem
15 Sharp turns
17 Shaving cream add-in
18 Knock
19 Surmised
21 Nicklaus contemporary
24 Corrode
25 Foreman rival
26 Pinch
28 Incenses
32 Equivoques
34 Tie up the phone
36 Manage somehow
37 Modify
39 Knight's address
41 Once called
42 Scull need
44 Big Mac or Whopper
46 Fame
50 Doo follower
51 Diner employee
52 Terrier type
56 Heche or Hathaway
57 List-ending abbr.
58 401(k) alternative
59 Stagger
60 Say it ain't so
61 Roulette bet

DOWN

1 Speedometer stat
2 — standstill
3 Tiny, as a fracture
4 Occur
5 Parisian pal
6 Pizzazz
7 Follow as a result
8 Credit cards
9 Rembrandt creations
10 With 11-Down, having dark peepers
11 See 10-Down
16 Aries
20 Corn spike
21 One of the Three Bears
22 Astringent
23 Horse and buggy, e.g.
27 — de deux
29 Classical-music lover
30 Foil's cousin
31 Crystal gazer
33 Diver's aid
35 Chest protector
38 Pop
40 Without courtesy
43 Used 42-Across
45 "Go, team!"
46 Cicatrix
47 Sound quality
48 Top-notch
49 Wee parasite
53 Scooted
54 Anger
55 "Way cool!"

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

		1	5		9	8		
7		9				4	5	
				1	6			
				2	7	5		3
6								2
5		2	6	3				
			7	4				
	5	8				3		7
		6	3		8	9		

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

A	C	T		P	O	S	E		A	B	E	D		
T	O	O		I	R	O	N		C	I	A	O		
O	A	F		C	A	N	D	Y	C	O	R	N		
P	L	U	C	K			S	E	E					
			A	L	E	S		T	S	A	R	S		
C	A	N	D	E	L	A	S		S	U	E	T		
A	P	E		D	E	L	I	A		L	E	A		
M	E	A	D		C	A	N	D	I	D	L	Y		
E	X	T	R	A		D	O	J	O					
			E	L	F			U	N	Z	I	P		
C	A	N	D	L	E	M	A	S		E	R	E		
A	G	O	G		E	A	S	T		S	A	N		
R	O	D	E		T	O	S	S		T	N	T		

4	6	1	7	3	2	5	9	8
3	7	9	6	8	5	2	1	4
5	2	8	4	1	9	6	3	7
2	9	7	8	5	6	1	4	3
6	8	5	1	4	3	9	7	2
1	3	4	2	9	7	8	5	6
7	5	2	3	6	1	4	8	9
8	1	6	9	7	4	3	2	5
9	4	3	5	2	8	7	6	1

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

STEPHEN MACLEOD

Fresh Healthy Tomato Cabbage Soup

Submitted by Irene Leung, Port Dover, ON

INGREDIENTS:

1/4 wedge of cabbage (green or red)
2 fresh tomatoes
1 carton (1 litre) of chicken broth
1 Slice (1/8 inch thick) of fresh ginger
1 splash of hot sauce (optional)

METHOD:

1. Pour entire carton of chicken broth into a large saucepan and add a slice of ginger into it and bring to a boil.
2. While the broth is boiling, cut cabbage into 1/2 inch strips and cut tomatoes into wedges.
3. Put the cabbage, tomatoes and hot sauce (if using) into the hot broth and bring to a boil.
4. After it has been boiled, simmer for about 5-10 minutes until cabbage is tender and tomatoes have broken down in smaller chunks. You can add salt and pepper to taste if desired but I find the salt in the broth is enough.
5. Ladle soup, cabbage and tomatoes into bowls and serve piping hot with crackers or a slice of crusty bread.

SERVES 2-4

PREP TIME: 5 MINUTES
COOK TIME: 15 MINUTES

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Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
If you can't handle something alone then by all means ask for assistance. Friends and family will rally round if you ask them. So ask them.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
You will find it easier than ever to make a good impression, but don't try too hard — make it seem as if you are doing them a favour.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
The truth must be told and you are the one who must tell it. Don't be afraid to point out where the so-called experts are wrong.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Your attitude towards an issue that involves money, investments or property will harden today and you will refuse to make changes.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Spell out what it is you are going to be doing over the next few weeks and what it will mean not just for yourself but for other people too.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
You must let certain people know that you do not exist merely for their convenience.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
You will find the confidence to make changes today, and the sooner you start making them the sooner you will see the results that you long for.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Cosmic activity in the domestic area of your chart will make it easier for you to explain to others some of the actions.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
You will find it remarkably easy to get people to do what you ask of them today

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Forget about flattery, forget about threats — colleagues will respond best to facts and figures.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
There can be no more excuses for putting off things that should have been finished by now.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Solar and planetary activity in the most sensitive area of your chart means you must consciously and continually strive to stay cheerful.

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• AM/FM/CD/MP3/Aux. plug audio system
• 60/40 split fold-down rear seat • Rear adjustable head restraints

GL Sport model shown

Limited model shown

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• Power front windows • Power door locks • 60/40 split fold-down rear seat

GLS Sport model shown

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MSRP ~~$14,999~~

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• Power windows • Power door locks • 60/40 split fold-down rear seat

Limited model shown

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• 6 airbags • AM/FM/XM/CD/MP3/Aux. plug/USB port 6-speaker audio system

City: 10.7L/100KM† Hwy: 7.5L/100KM†

Limited model shown

2010 SONATA GL

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